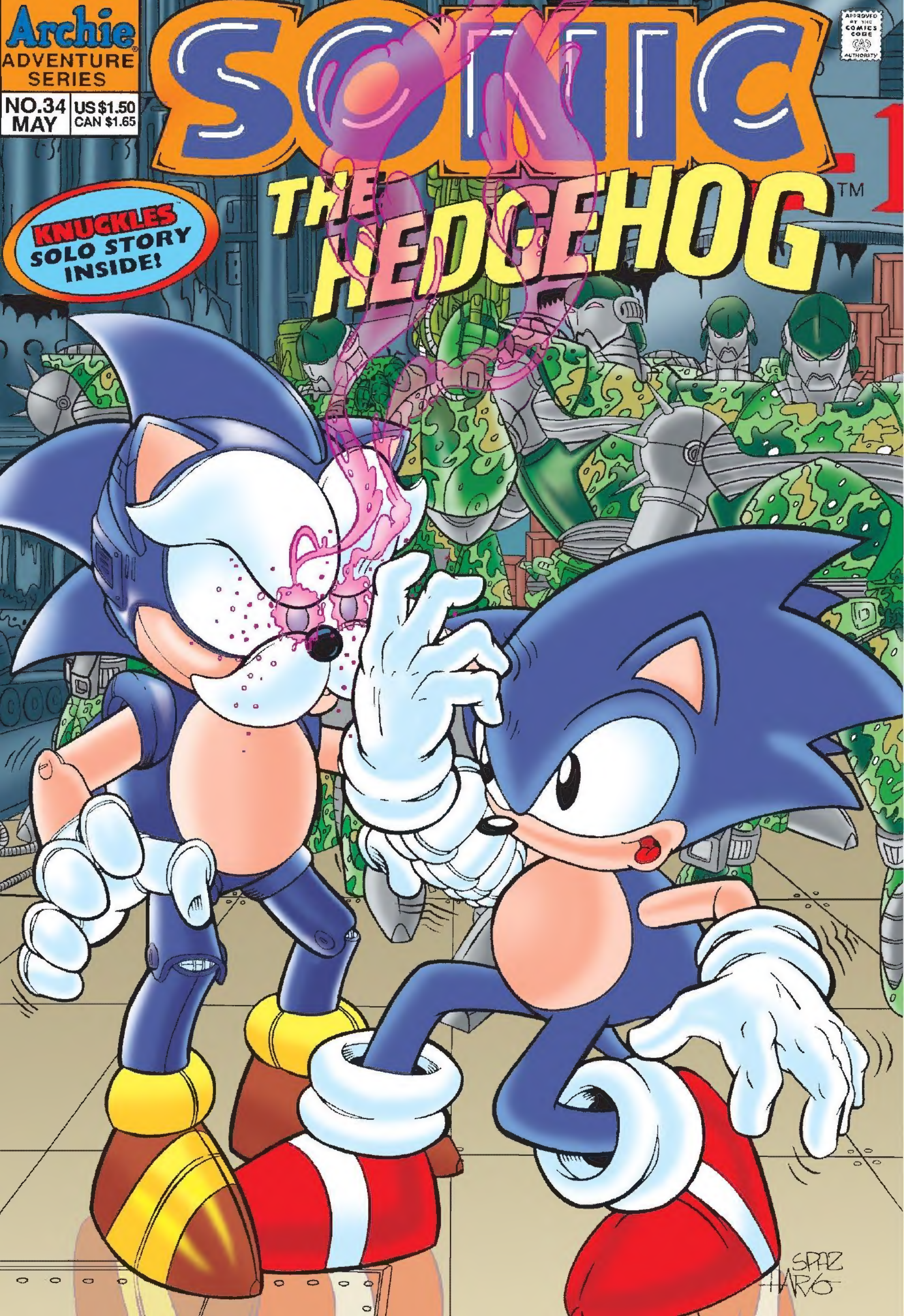
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1
KNUCKLES SOLO STORY INSIDE!
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SPAZ MARO

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG IN TO 'BOT OR NOT TO 'BOT!

PART ONE

FFRRRRZZZZAAPP!!

I CAN'T LOOK! TELL ME WHEN IT'S OVER!

SCRIPT: ANGELO DECESARE
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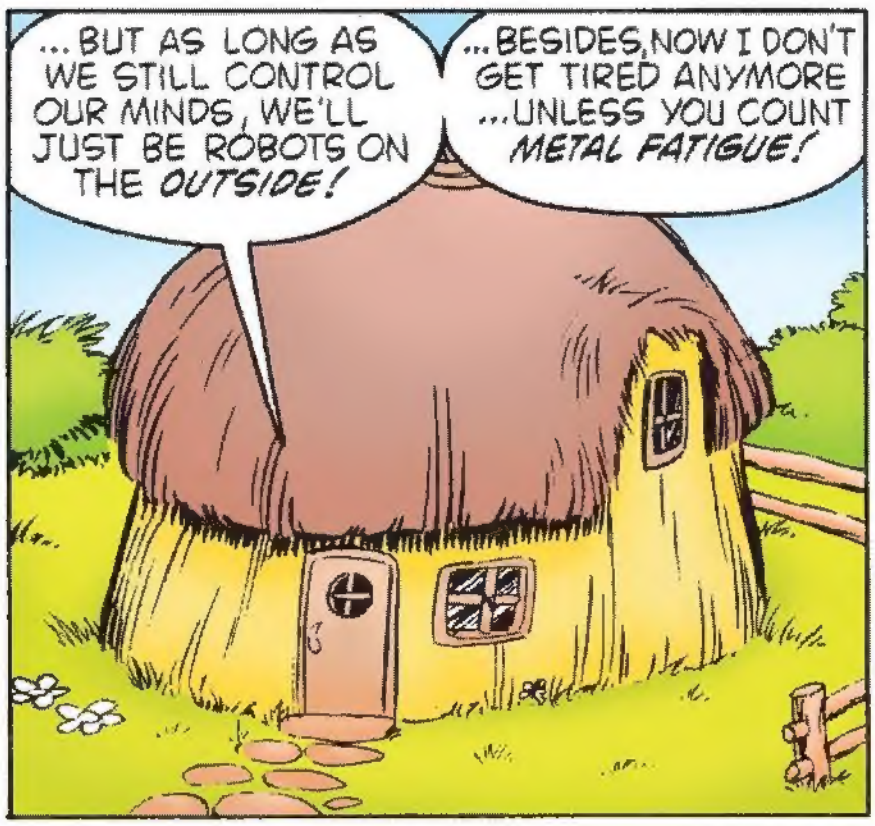
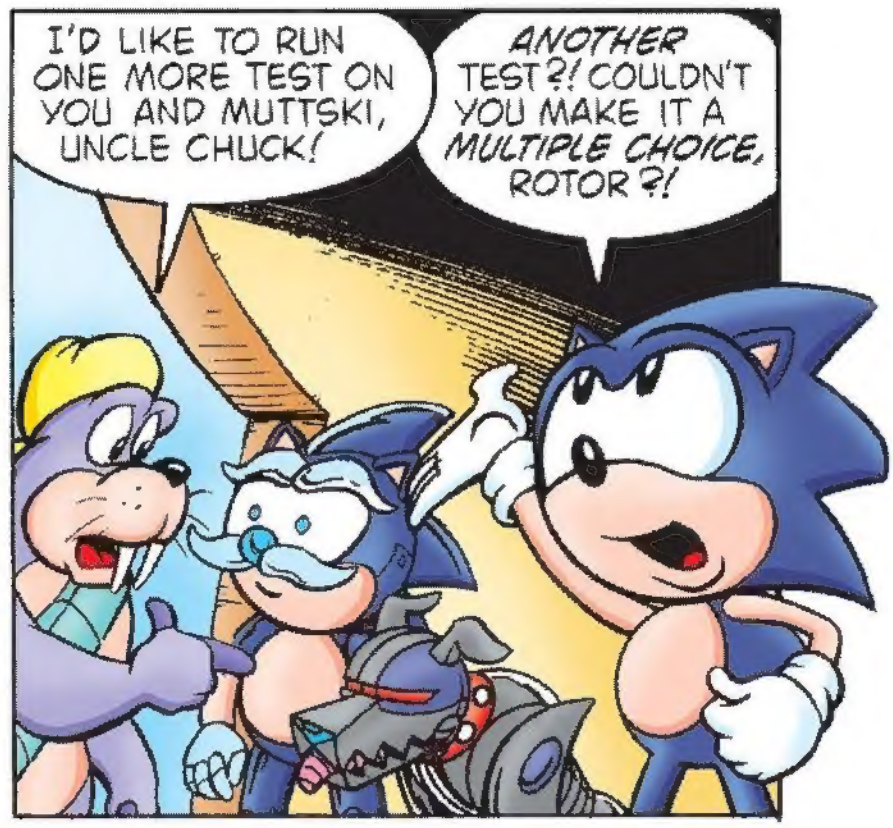
MANAGING EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER

SORRY, SONIC! THE DE-ROBOTICIZATION PROCESS DIDN'T WORK! UNCLE CHUCK AND MUTTSKI ARE STILL ROBOTS!

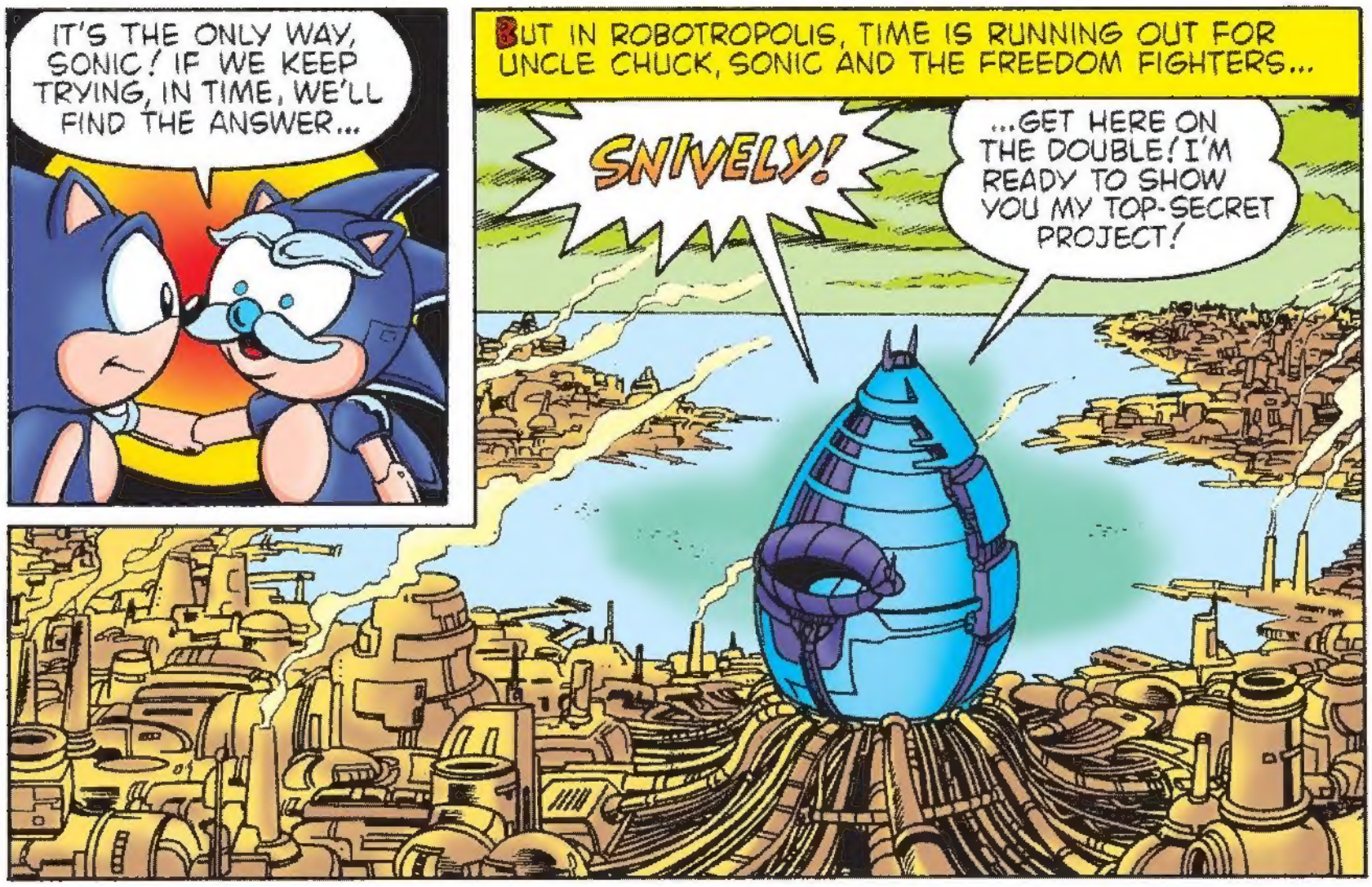
OH, MAN!

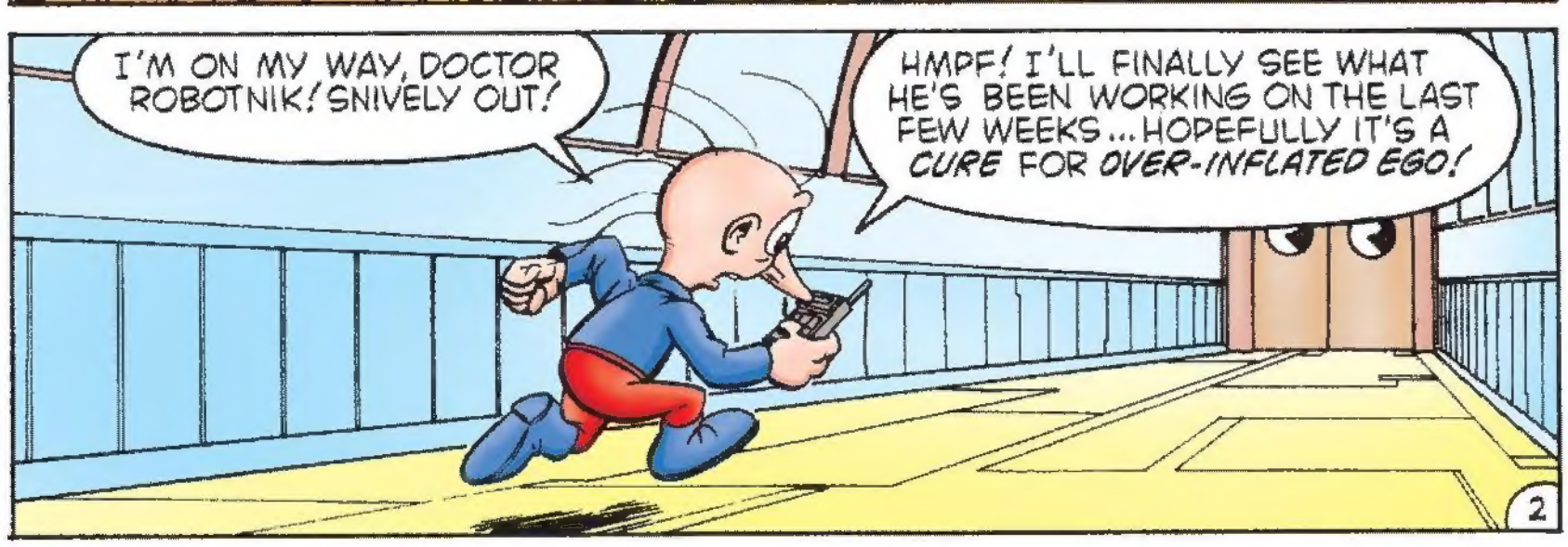
ROBOTNIK'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DE-ROBOTICIZE US NOW, NEPHEW...

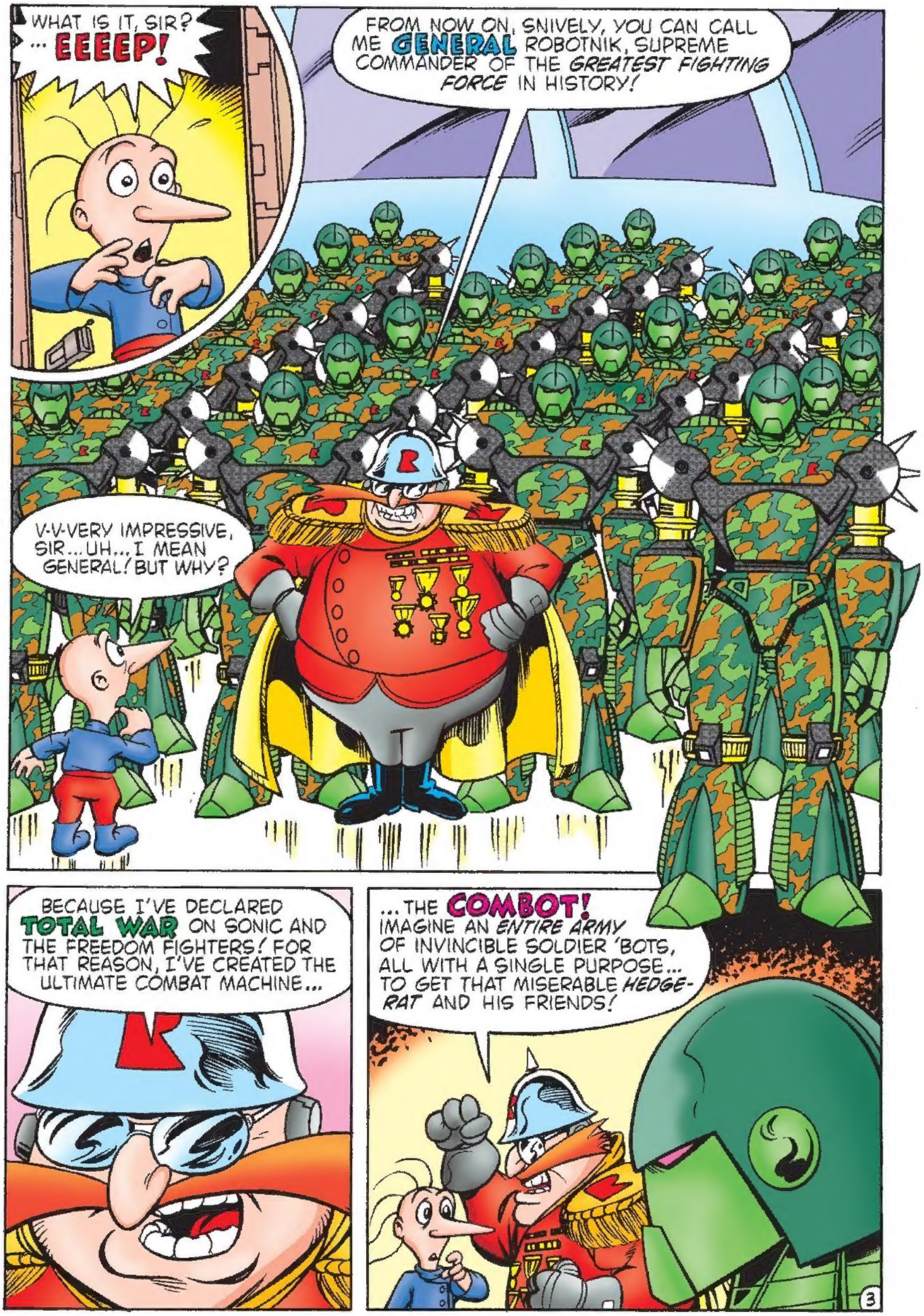

...BUT AS LONG AS WE STILL CONTROL OUR MINDS, WE'LL JUST BE ROBOTS ON THE *OUTSIDE!*
...BESIDES, NOW I DON'T GET TIRED ANYMORE ...UNLESS YOU COUNT *METAL FATIGUE!*


I'D LIKE TO RUN ONE MORE TEST ON YOU AND MUTTSKI, UNCLE CHUCK!
ANOTHER TEST?! COULDN'T YOU MAKE IT A *MULTIPLE CHOICE,* ROTOR?!

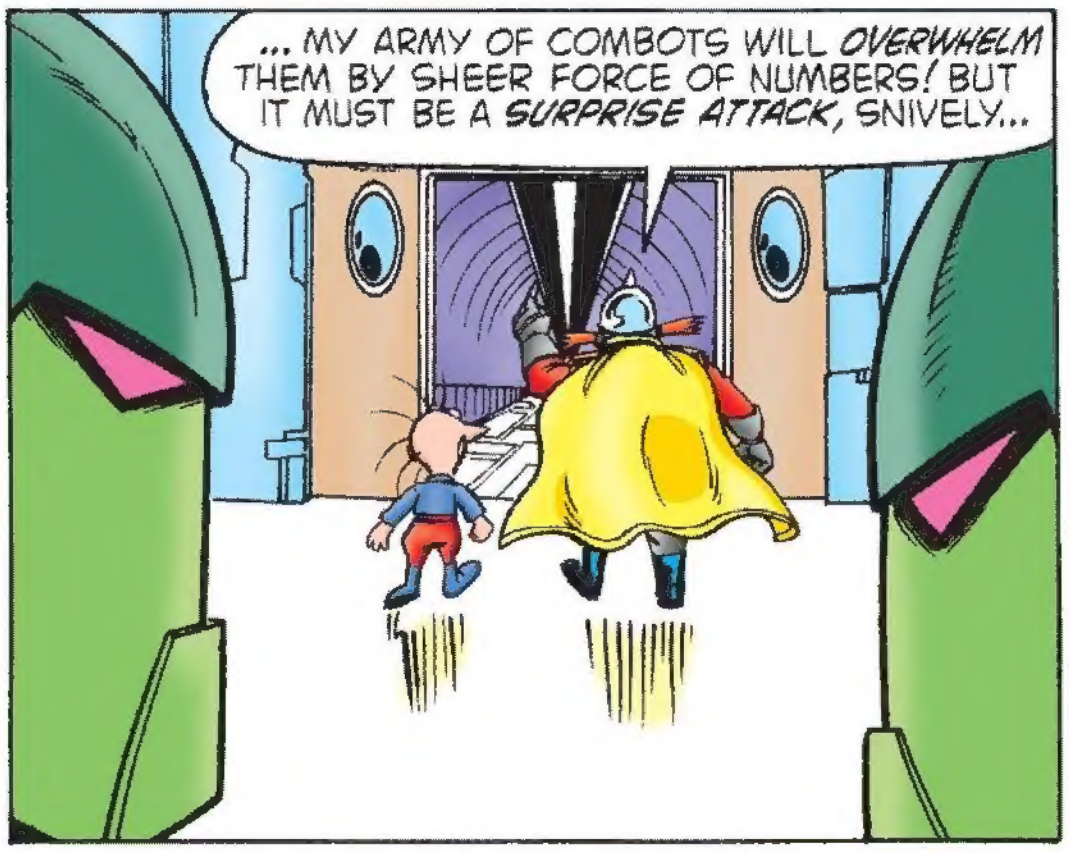
IT'S THE ONLY WAY, SONIC! IF WE KEEP TRYING, IN TIME, WE'LL FIND THE ANSWER...

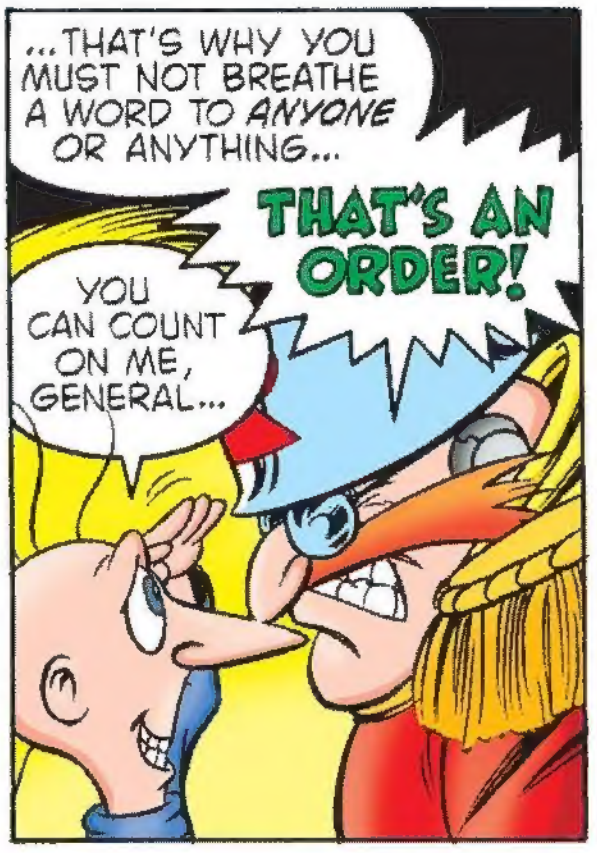

BUT IN ROBOTROPOLIS, TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR UNCLE CHUCK, SONIC AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS...
SNIVELY!
...GET HERE ON THE DOUBLE! I'M READY TO SHOW YOU MY TOP-SECRET PROJECT!

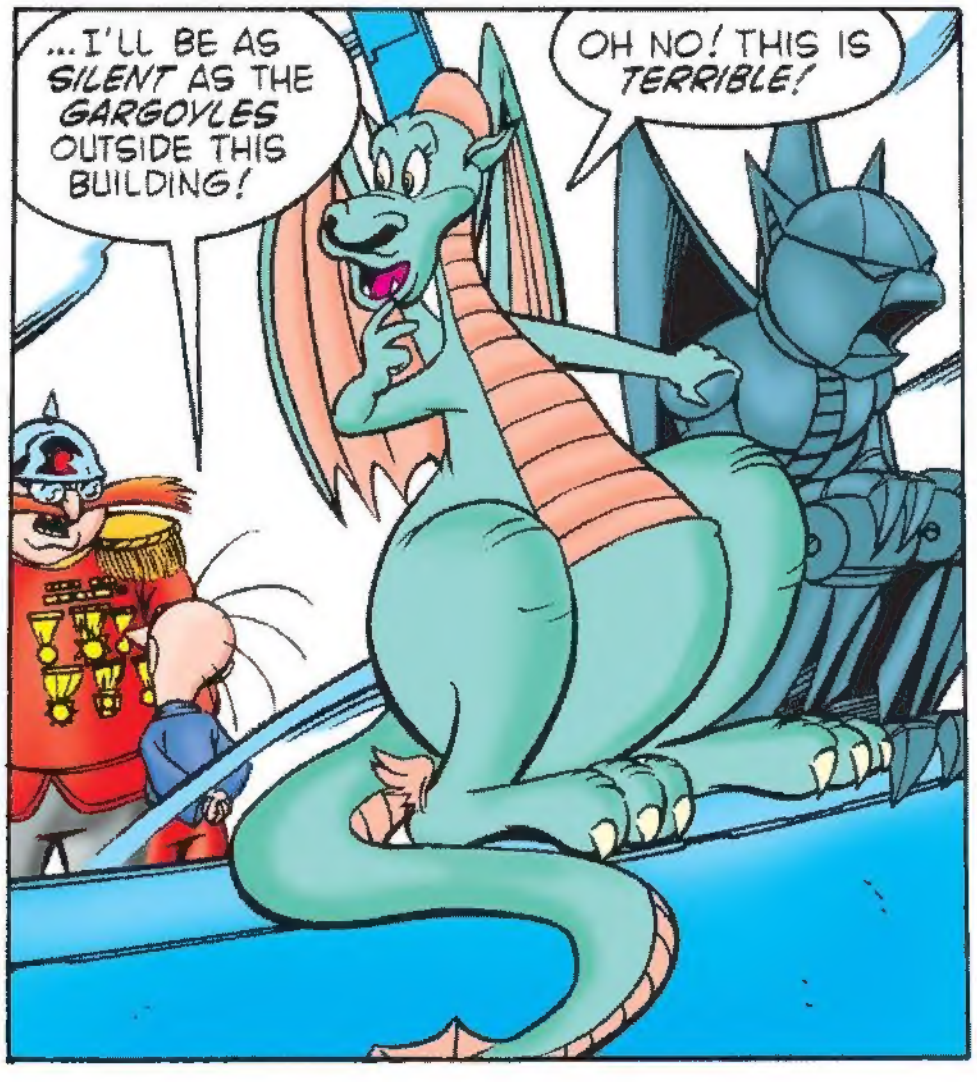

I'M ON MY WAY, DOCTOR ROBOTNIK! SNIVELY OUT!
HMPF! I'LL FINALLY SEE WHAT HE'S BEEN WORKING ON THE LAST FEW WEEKS... HOPEFULLY IT'S A *CURE* FOR *OVER-INFLATED EGO!*

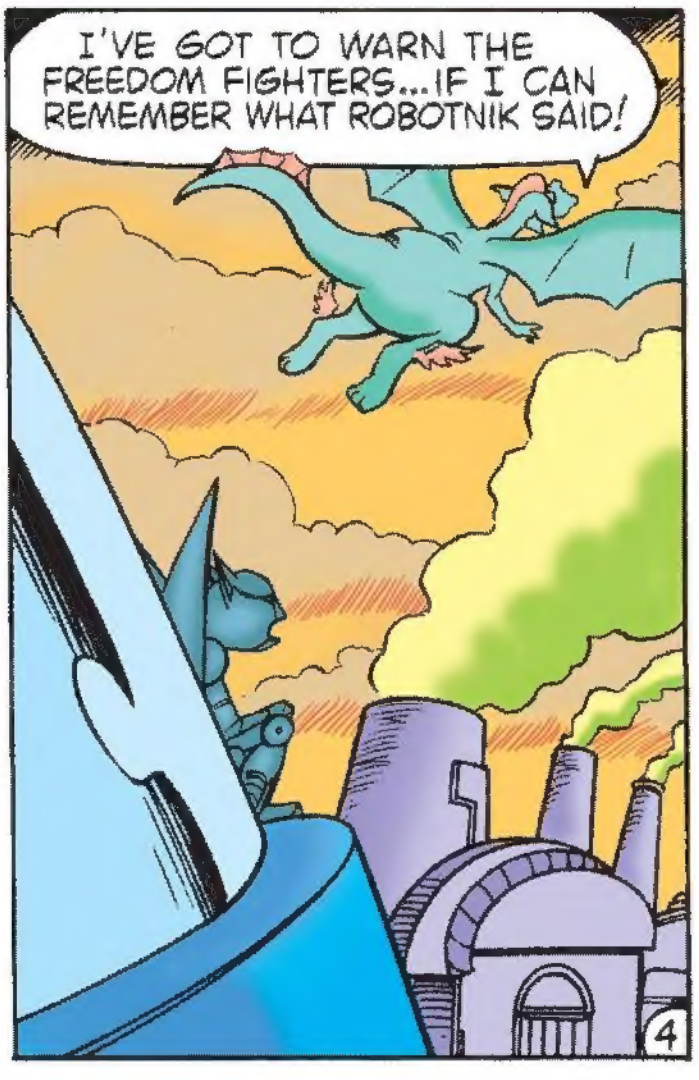

WHAT IS IT, SIR? ... EEEEP!
FROM NOW ON, SNIVELY, YOU CAN CALL ME GENERAL ROBOTNIK, SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE GREATEST FIGHTING FORCE IN HISTORY!
V-V-VERY IMPRESSIVE, SIR... UH... I MEAN GENERAL! BUT WHY?
BECAUSE I'VE DECLARED TOTAL WAR ON SONIC AND THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS! FOR THAT REASON, I'VE CREATED THE ULTIMATE COMBAT MACHINE...
... THE COMBOT! IMAGINE AN ENTIRE ARMY OF INVINCIBLE SOLDIER 'BOTS, ALL WITH A SINGLE PURPOSE... TO GET THAT MISERABLE HEDGE-RAT AND HIS FRIENDS!

TOMORROW I WILL LAUNCH AN *ALL-OUT ATTACK* ON THE *GREAT FOREST!* WHEN THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS COME TO THE RESCUE...


... MY ARMY OF COMBOTS WILL *OVERWHELM* THEM BY SHEER FORCE OF NUMBERS! BUT IT MUST BE A *SURPRISE ATTACK*, SNIVELY...


...THAT'S WHY YOU MUST NOT BREATHE A WORD TO *ANYONE* OR ANYTHING...
THAT'S AN ORDER!
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, GENERAL...

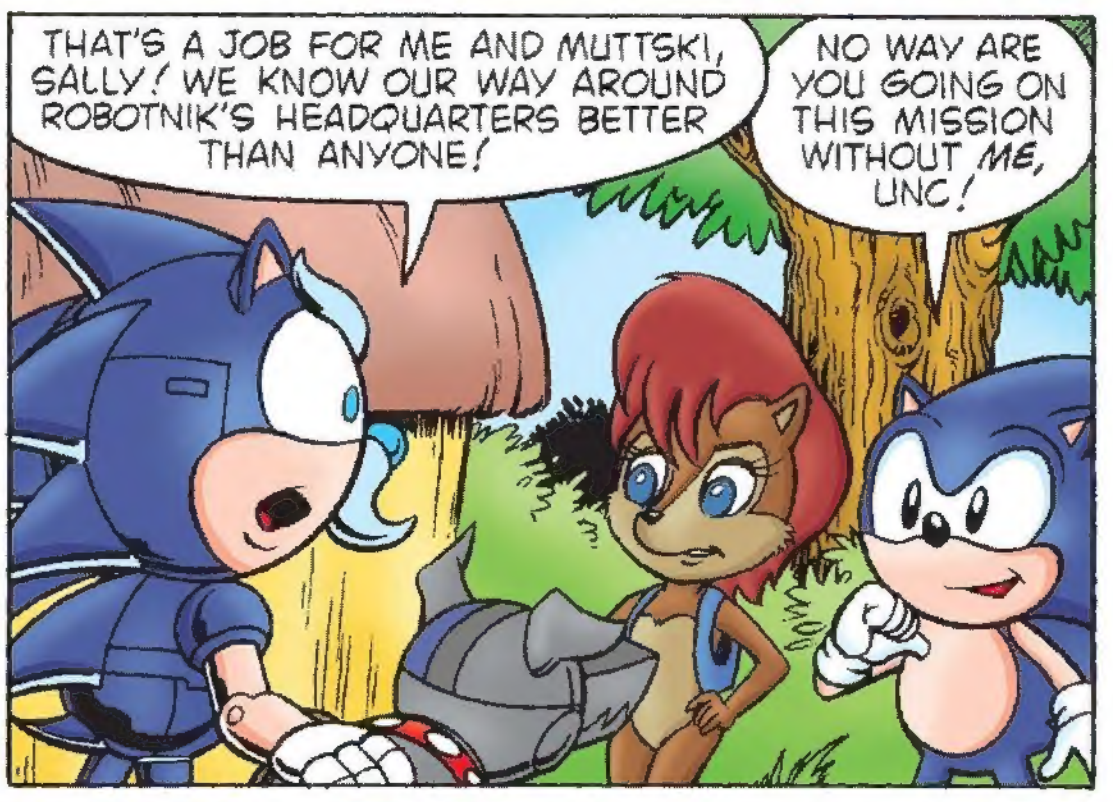

...I'LL BE AS *SILENT* AS THE *GARGOYLES* OUTSIDE THIS BUILDING!
OH NO! THIS IS *TERRIBLE!*

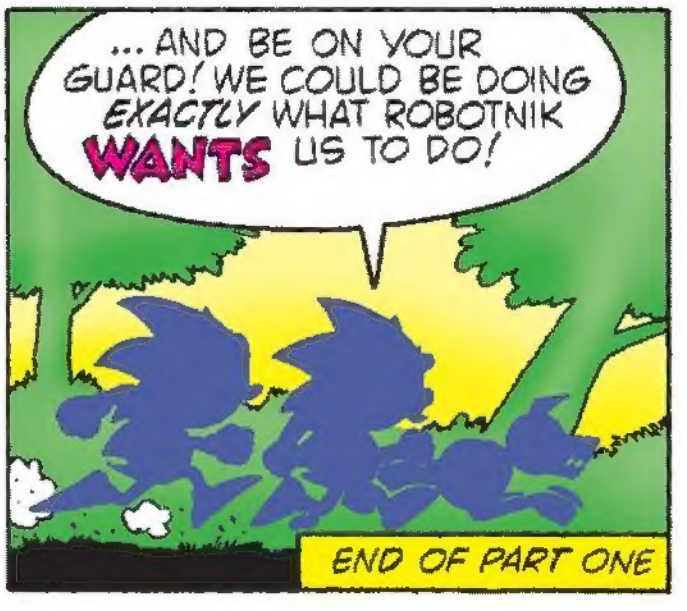

I'VE GOT TO WARN THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS...IF I CAN REMEMBER WHAT ROBOTNIK SAID!

KNOTHOLE VILLAGE, THE GREAT FOREST...

... AND THEN HE SAID THAT HIS ARMY OF COMBOTS WAS *INVISIBLE* AND THAT HE WAS GOING TO *LUNCH* TOMORROW AND THEN WE WERE GOING TO BE ATTACKED BY AN *AIR FORCE* OF *NUMBSKULLS* AND THEN...

CALM DOWN, DULCY! I KNOW IT WAS HARD TO HEAR EVERYTHING ROBOTNIK SAID, BUT I GET THE IDEA!





SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™

IN TO 'BOT OR NOT TO 'BOT! PART TWO

AS GLOOMY NIGHT FALLS ON ROBOTROPOLIS, SONIC, UNCLE CHUCK AND MUTTSKI ARE OUTSIDE ROBOTNIK'S HEADQUARTERS...

JUST GET US IN, UNCLE CHUCK! I'LL DO THE REST!

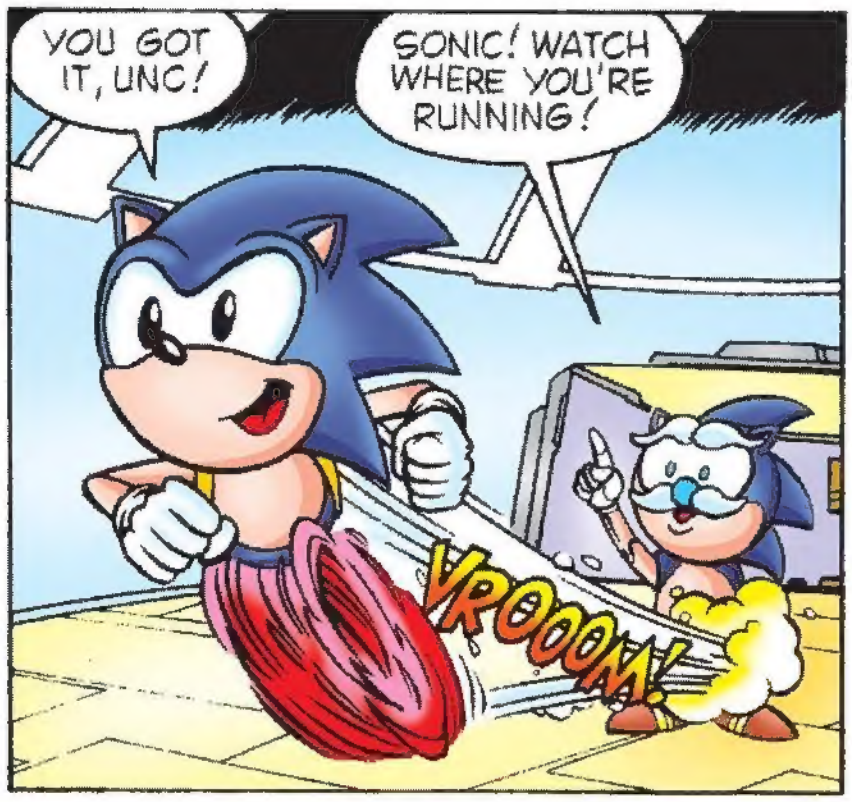
I KNOW ALL OF ROBOTNIK'S ACCESS CODES, SO GETTING THROUGH SECURITY SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM... STILL, IT'S ODD THAT HE HASN'T CHANGED HIS CODES SINCE I ESCAPED!

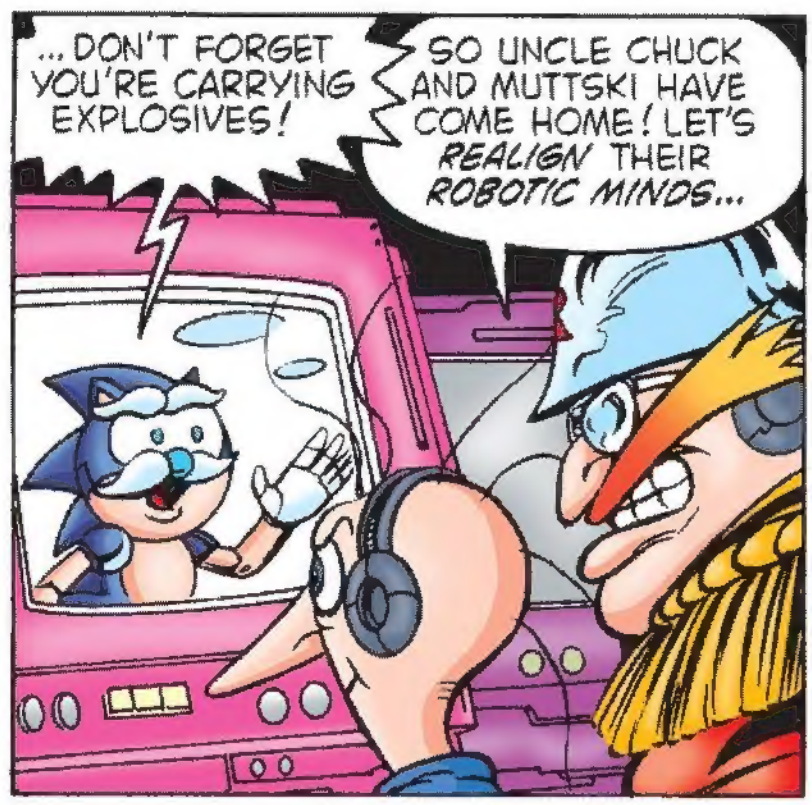
BEEP! BOOP-BEEP!

INSIDE...

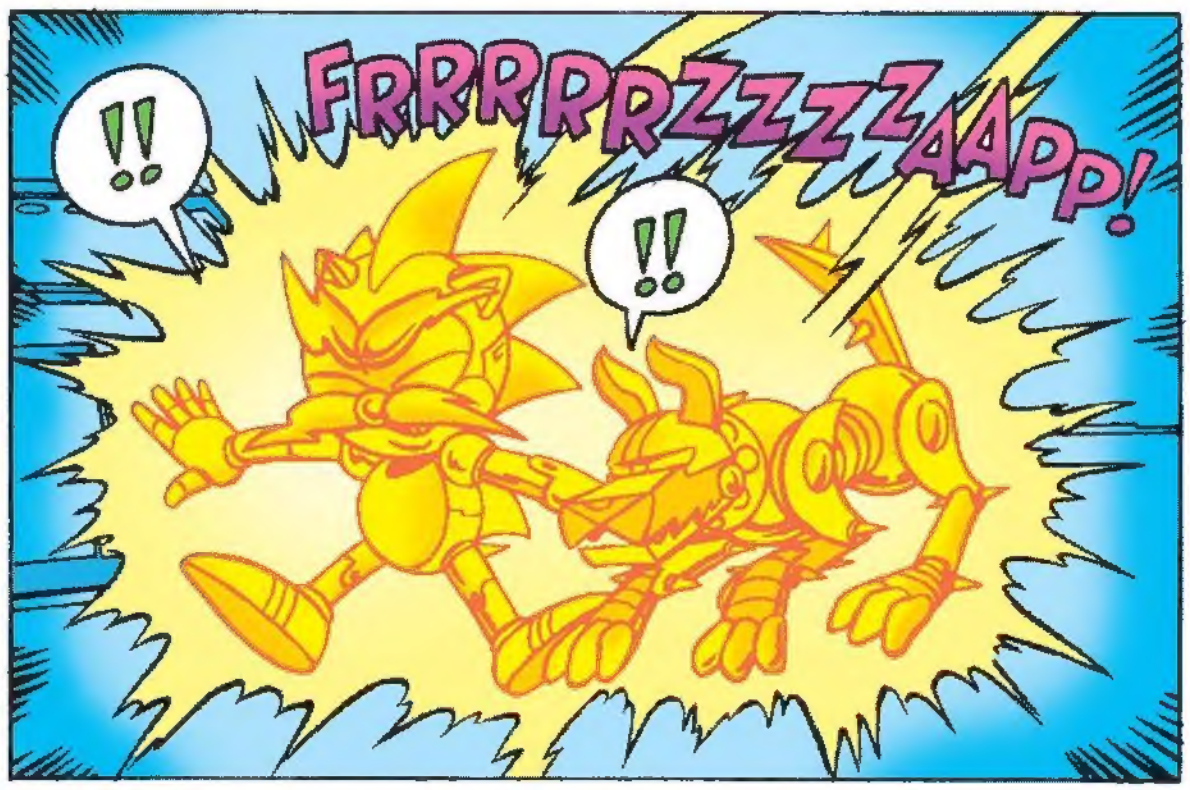
WHOA! LOOK AT ALL THOSE 'BOTS! WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A *GIANT BOWLING BALL!*

I'D HATE TO SEE THEM WHEN THEY'RE *ACTIVATED!* LET'S DO OUR JOB AND GET OUT OF HERE, SONIC!


YOU GOT IT, UNC!
SONIC! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE RUNNING!
VROOOM!


... DON'T FORGET YOU'RE CARRYING EXPLOSIVES!
SO UNCLE CHUCK AND MUTTSKI HAVE COME HOME! LET'S *REALIGN* THEIR *ROBOTIC MINDS*...

...NOW!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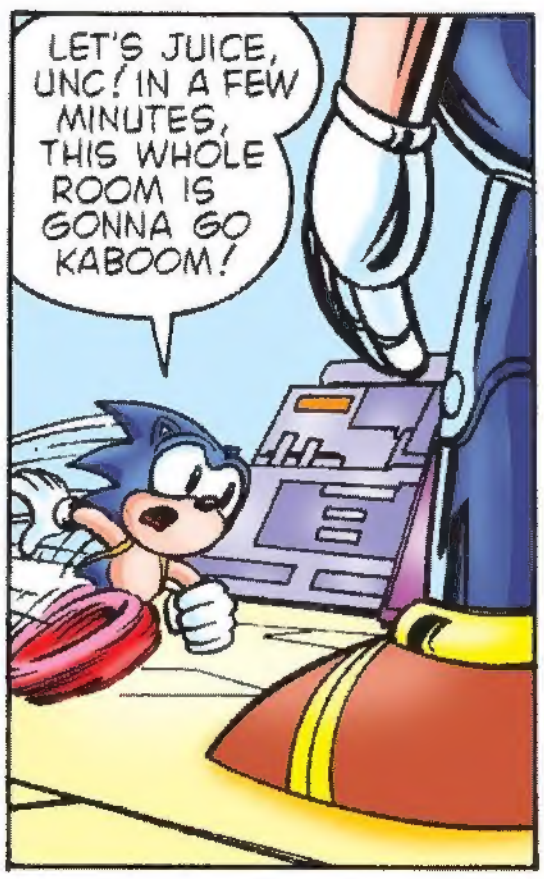
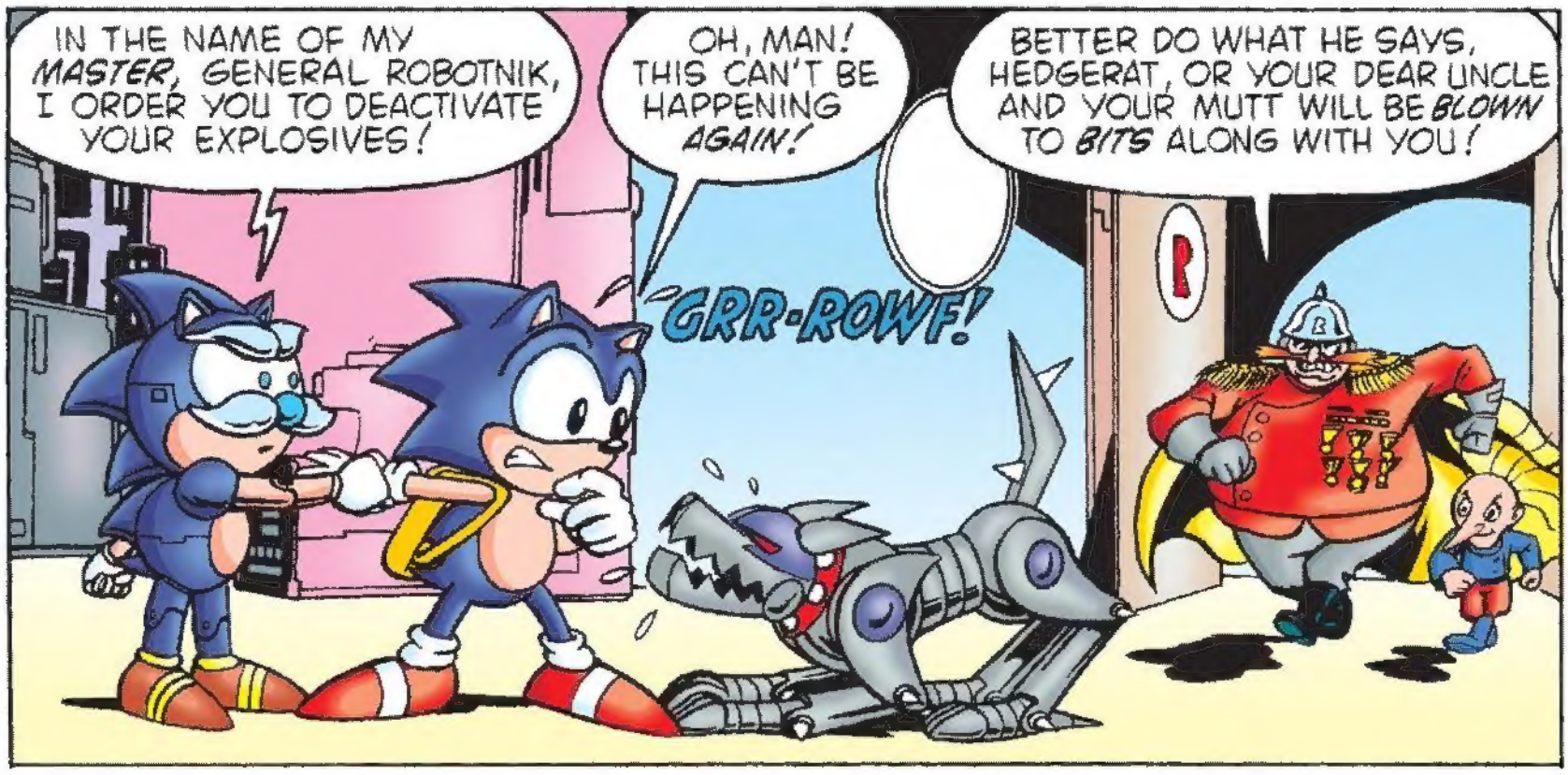
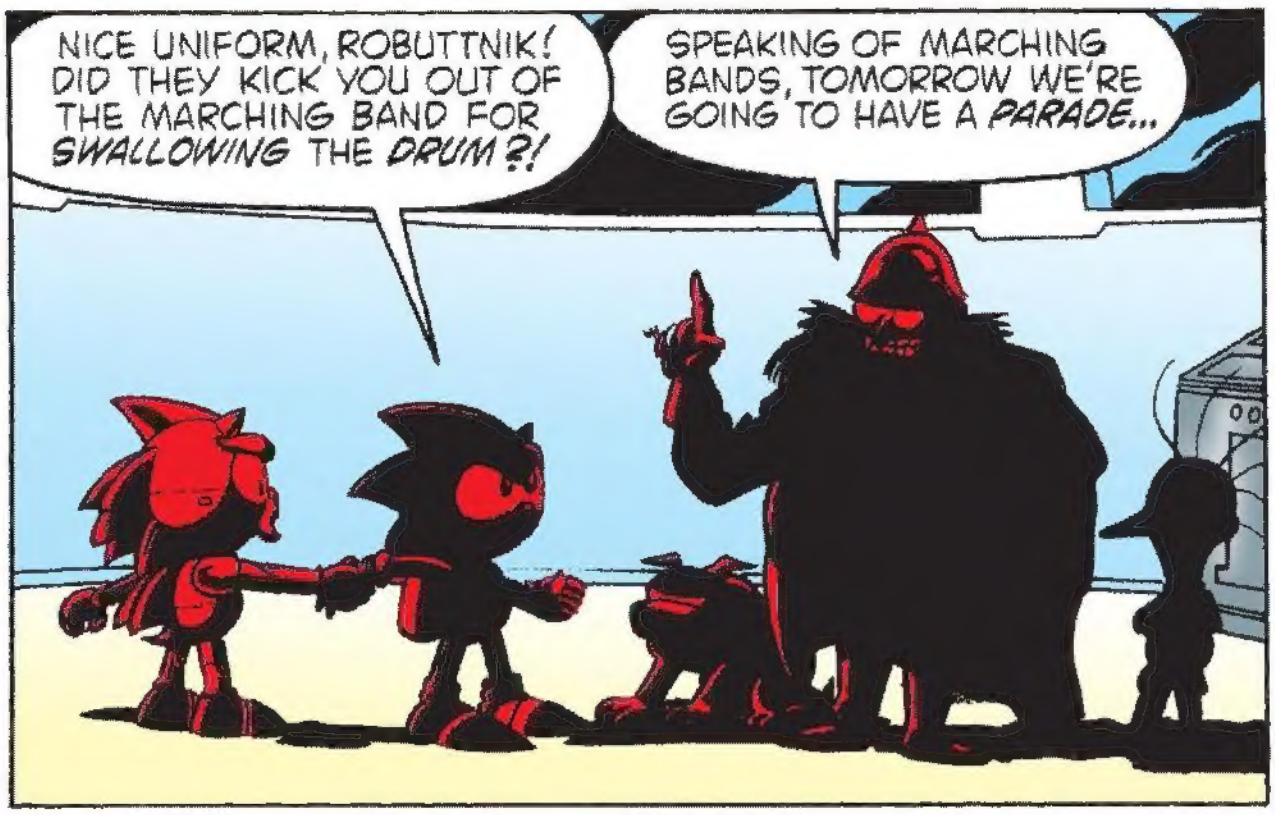
FRRRRRZZZZAAPP!


LET'S JUICE, UNC! IN A FEW MINUTES, THIS WHOLE ROOM IS GONNA GO KABOOM!

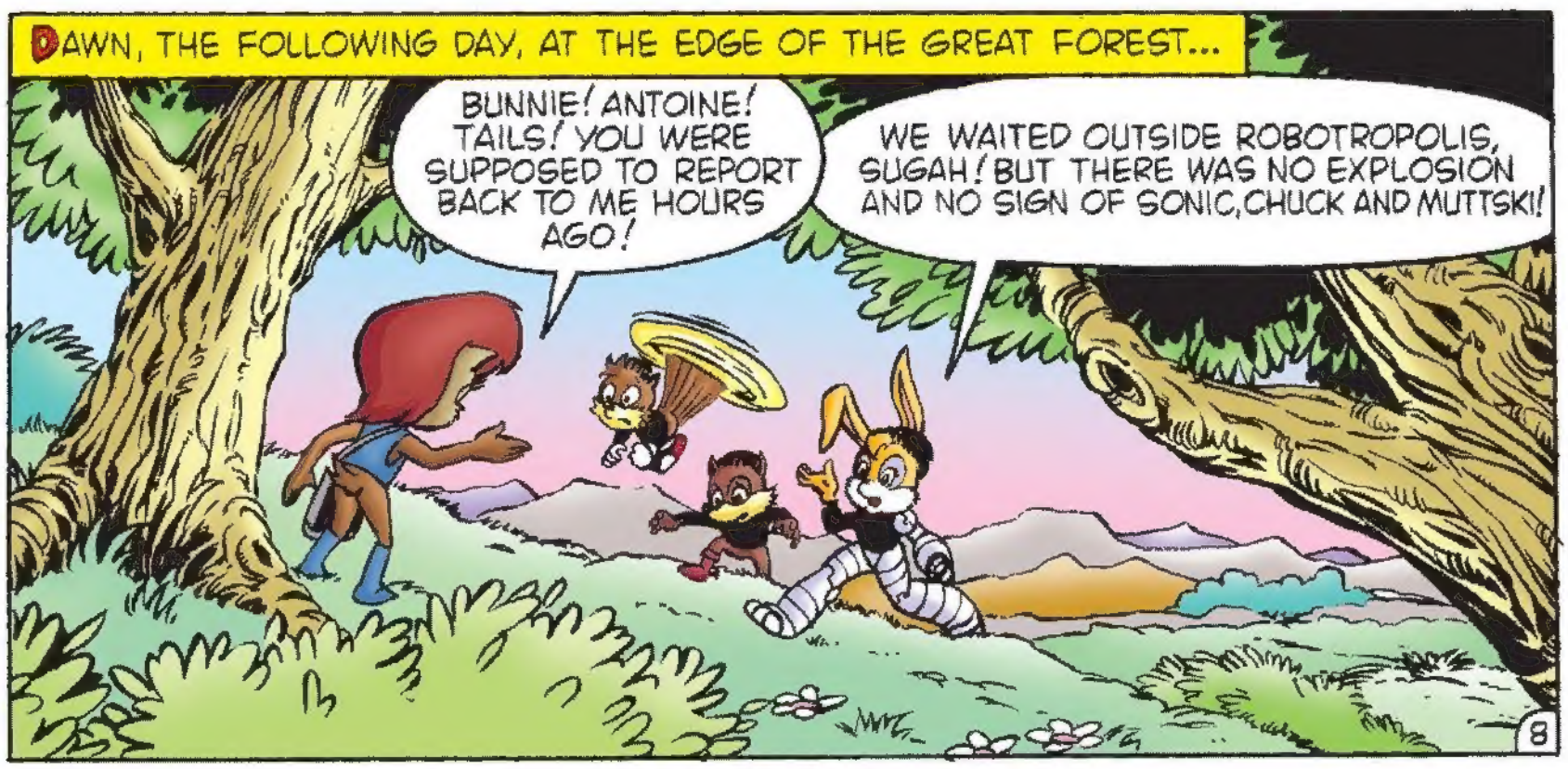
C'MON, UNCLE CHUCK! HEY! WHAT'S UP? YOU LOOK *WEIRD*...

HUH?!!
CLANK!


IN THE NAME OF MY MASTER, GENERAL ROBOTNIK, I ORDER YOU TO DEACTIVATE YOUR EXPLOSIVES!
OH, MAN! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING AGAIN!
BETTER DO WHAT HE SAYS, HEDGERAT, OR YOUR DEAR UNCLE AND YOUR MUTT WILL BE BLOWN TO BITS ALONG WITH YOU!
GRR-ROWF!

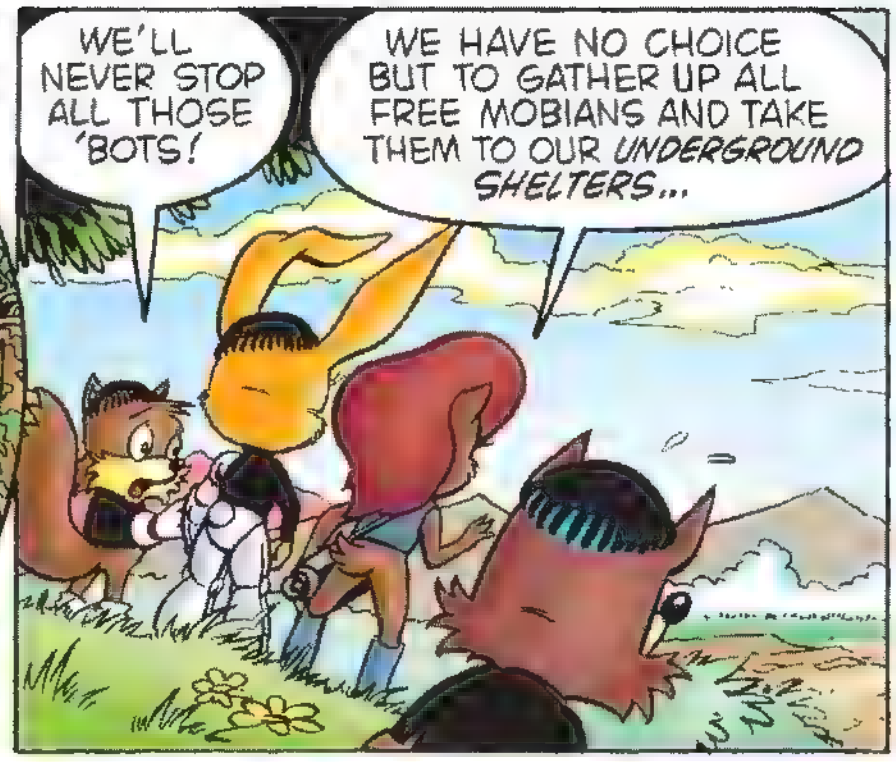

NICE UNIFORM, ROBUTTNIK! DID THEY KICK YOU OUT OF THE MARCHING BAND FOR SWALLOWING THE DRUM?!
SPEAKING OF MARCHING BANDS, TOMORROW WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A PARADE...

...AND YOU'RE GOING TO LEAD IT!
??
?!

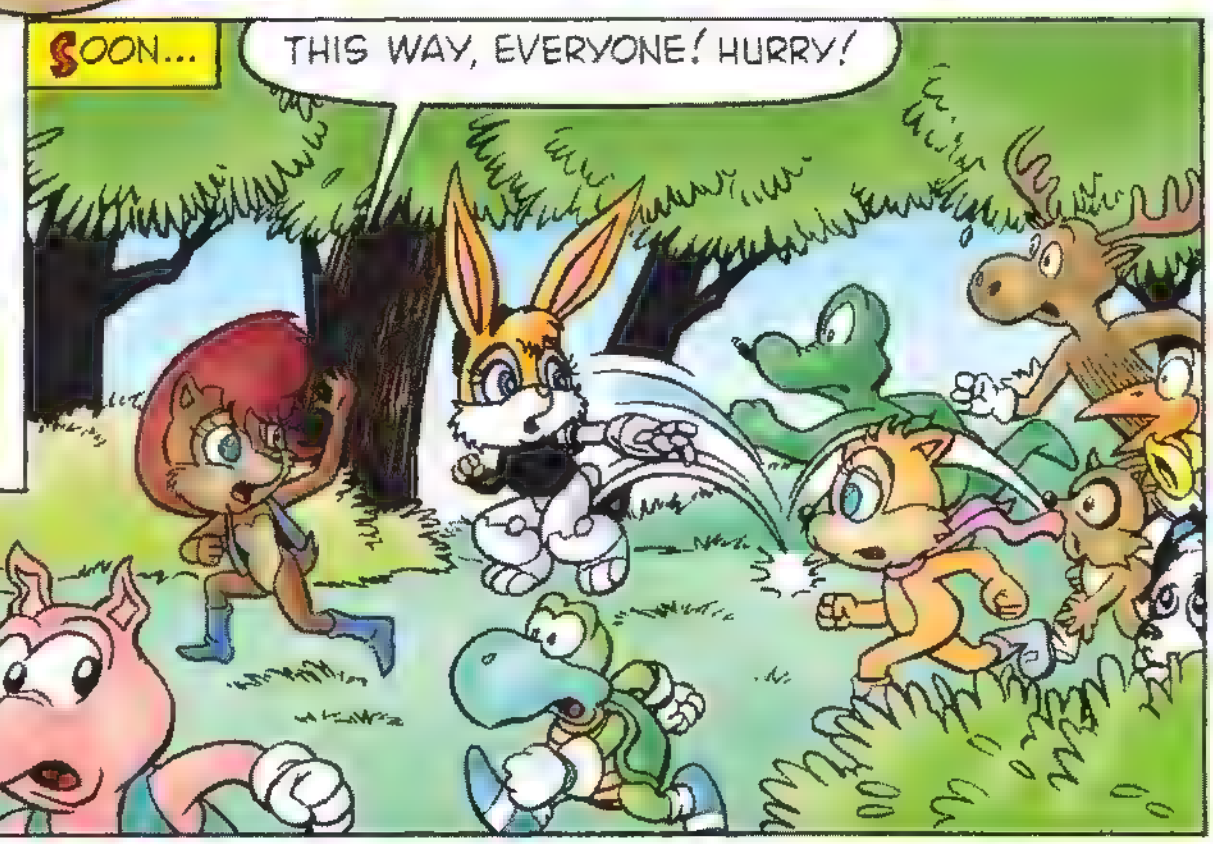

DAWN, THE FOLLOWING DAY, AT THE EDGE OF THE GREAT FOREST...
BUNNIE! ANTOINE! TAILS! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO REPORT BACK TO ME HOURS AGO!
WE WAITED OUTSIDE ROBOTROPOLIS, SUGAH! BUT THERE WAS NO EXPLOSION AND NO SIGN OF SONIC, CHUCK AND MUTTSKI!

SOMETHING MUST HAVE GONE WRONG! PERHAPS THEY WERE CAPTURED!
I WAS ABOUT TO GO LOOK FOR ZEM, PRINCESS, BUT I HEARD ZE LOUD, MYSTERIOUS NOISE!
THAT WAS YOUR KNEES KNOCKING, ANTOINE!
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT IN THE DISTANCE?
?
?!
OH NO! ROBOTNIK'S ARMY IS ON THE MARCH ...AND THEY'VE TAKEN SONIC PRISONER!
I HOPE FOR YOUR SAKE YOUR FRIENDS DON'T ATTACK US, HEDGEHOG!

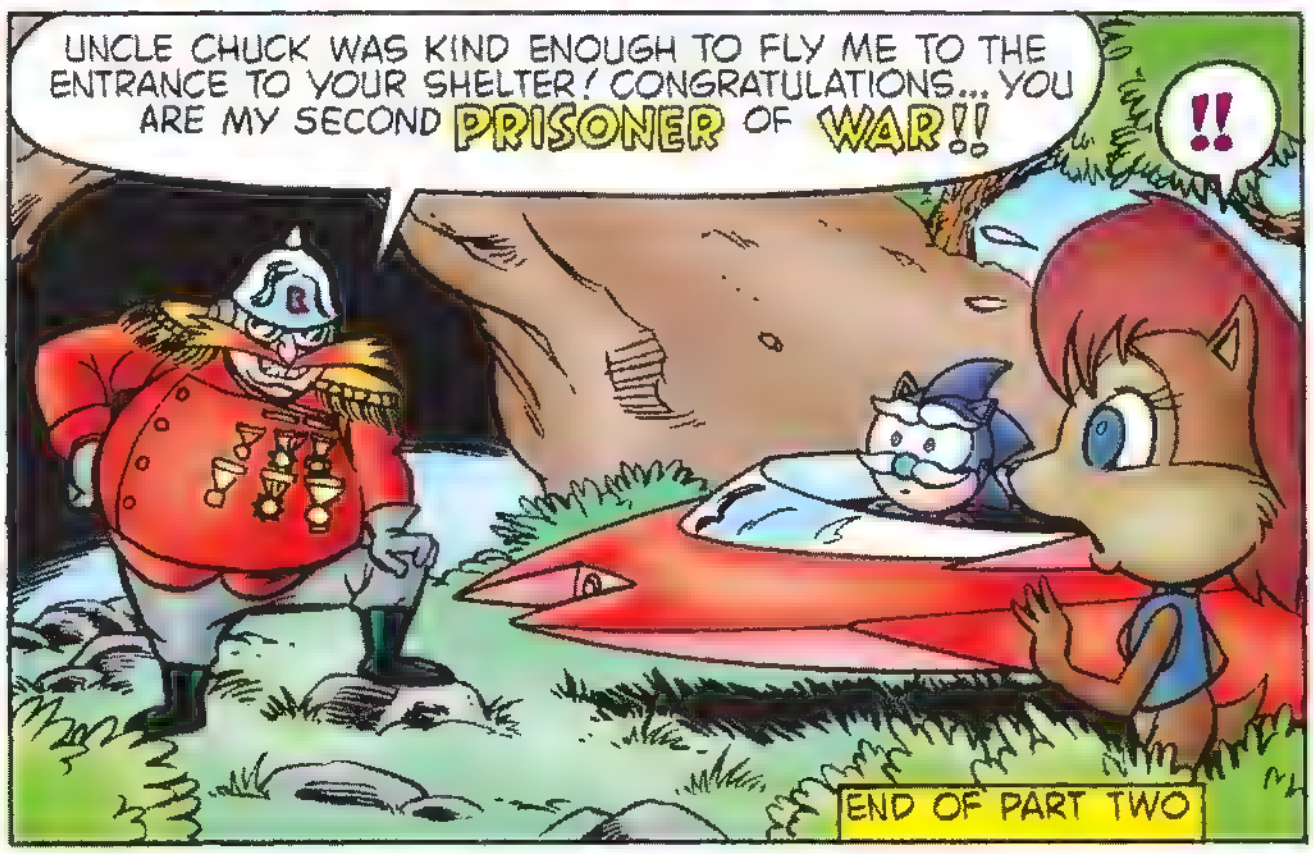
UNCLE CHUCK AND MUTTSKI ARE MARCHING WITH THE 'BOTS! ROBOTNIK MUST HAVE REALIGNED THEIR MINDS!


WE'LL NEVER STOP ALL THOSE 'BOTS!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GATHER UP ALL FREE MOBIANS AND TAKE THEM TO OUR *UNDERGROUND SHELTERS...*

...AND SAY GOODBYE TO OUR HOME IN KNOTHOLE VILLAGE!


SOON...
THIS WAY, EVERYONE! HURRY!

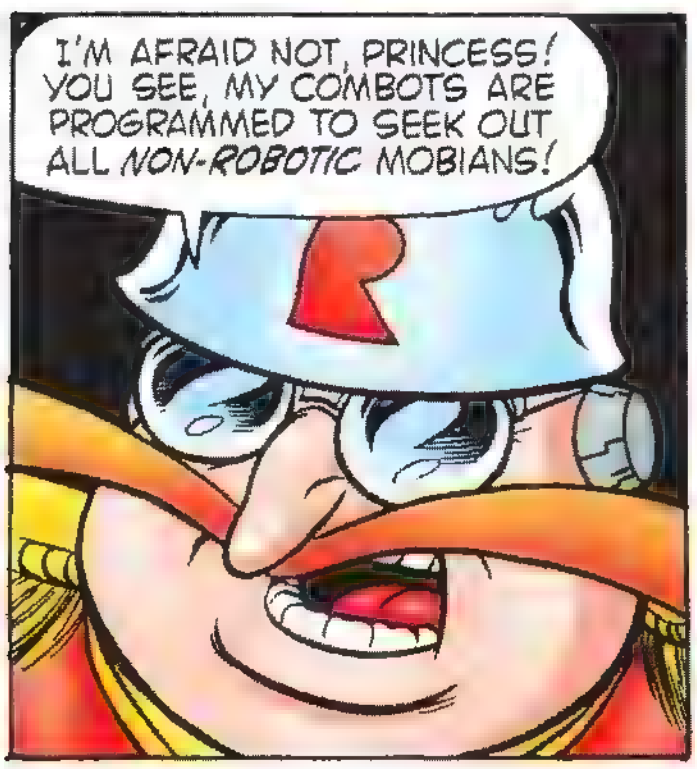
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, PRINCESS!
?!


UNCLE CHUCK WAS KIND ENOUGH TO FLY ME TO THE ENTRANCE TO YOUR SHELTER! CONGRATULATIONS... YOU ARE MY SECOND PRISONER OF WAR!!
!!
END OF PART TWO

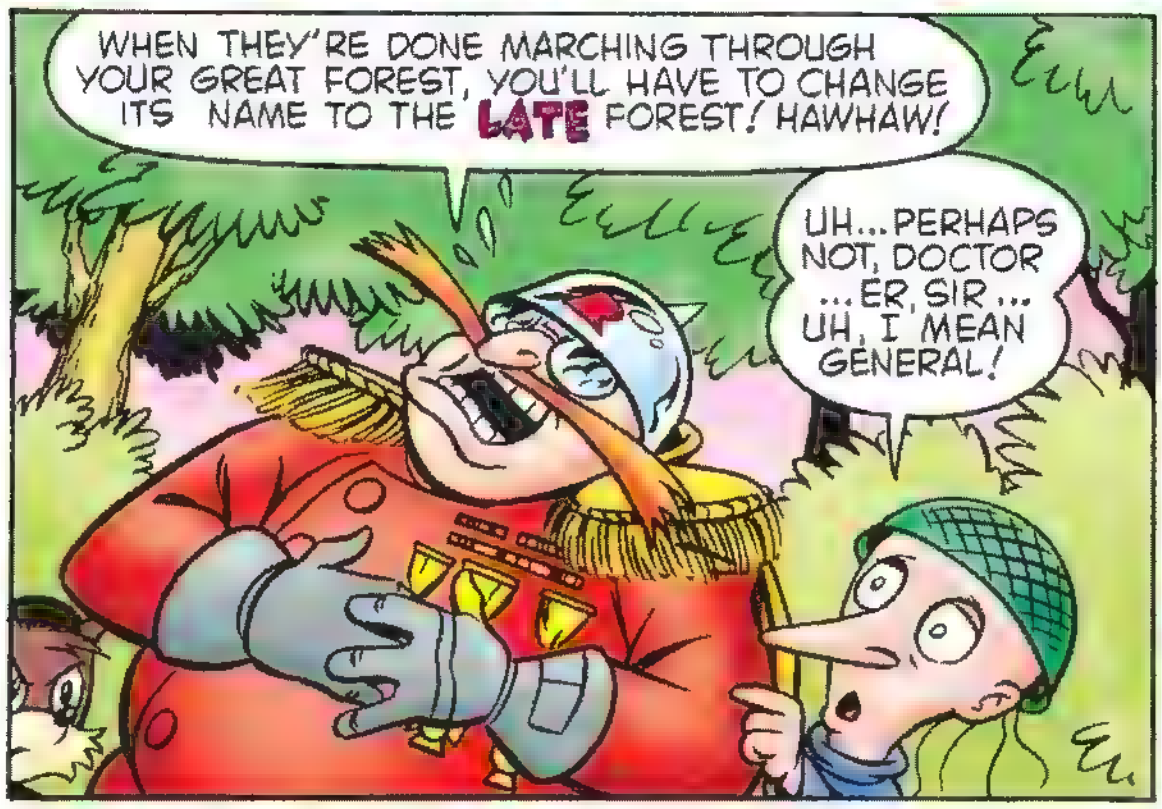
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG™ IN TO 'BOT OR NOT TO 'BOT!

PART 3

YOU CAN STOP *SOME* OF US, ROBOTNIK, BUT YOU CAN'T STOP **ALL** OF US! *SOMEONE* WILL FIND A WAY TO BRING YOU *DOWN!*

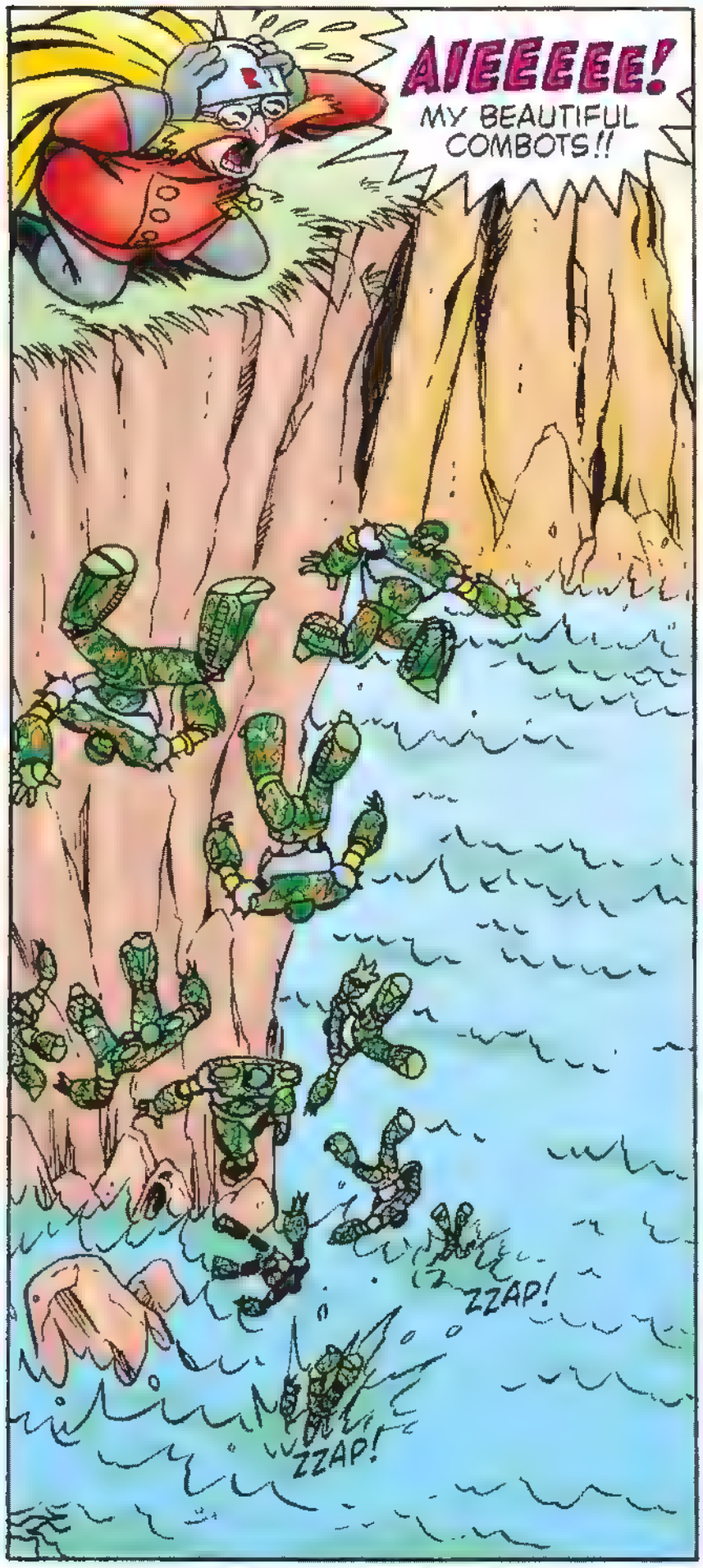


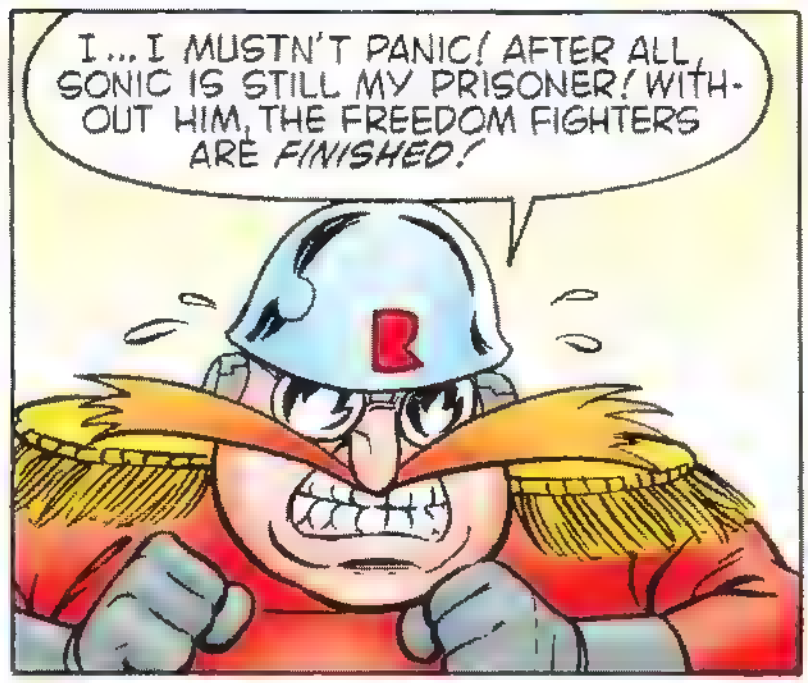
OH, WOULDN'T I? COMBOTS! I, YOUR IMPERIAL LEADER, COMMAND YOU TO REMOVE ALL MOBIANS FROM THE GREAT FOREST... EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO *DESTROY* IT!

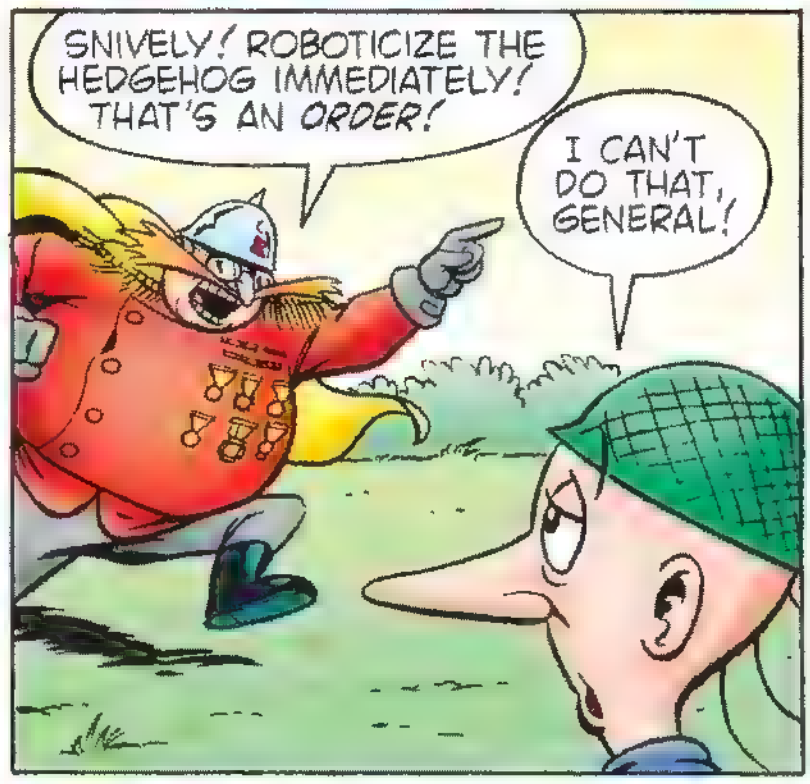


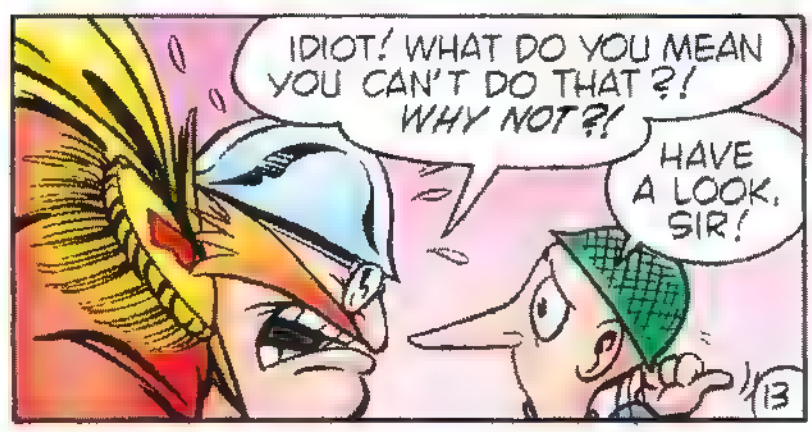
STOP! YOU'RE HEADING TOWARDS A CLIFF! THE *OCEAN* IS DOWN THERE! STOP! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING TO ME *AGAIN!**

* ROBOTNIK'S DEMOLITION TRACTORS WERE "CLIFFED" IN SONIC #28 - ED









WHAT?!! HOW DID YOU GET FREE?

I WAS BORN FREE, RO-BUTT-NIK!

AND NOW I'M FREE TO ROBOTICIZE YOU!

WAIT! YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE ME A ROBOT!

I'M ALREADY COLD-HEARTED!

!!

HEY!

GRRROWF!

NO, MUTTSKI! NO!

GRRRR!

A HOVERCRAFT! NOW I CAN ESCAPE!

LET GO, SNIVELY! THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR *ONE*! THAT'S AN ORDER!

SORRY, GENERAL, BUT I'VE DECIDED TO BE A *DESERTER!*

VZOOOM!

NICE GOIN', UNCLE CHUCK! YOUR *PLAN* WORKED LIKE A CHARM!

EH? EH? ZE *PLAN*? WHAT IS ZIS"PLAN"?!

AND YOU GAVE A GREAT PERFORMANCE TOO, OLD BOY! FOR A MINUTE THERE, I THOUGHT YOU WERE *STILL* A 'BOT!

BUT HE *IS* ZE 'BOT! I SAW IT WITH MY *OWN TWO FEET!*

OOH! MY HEAD IS CONFUSED!

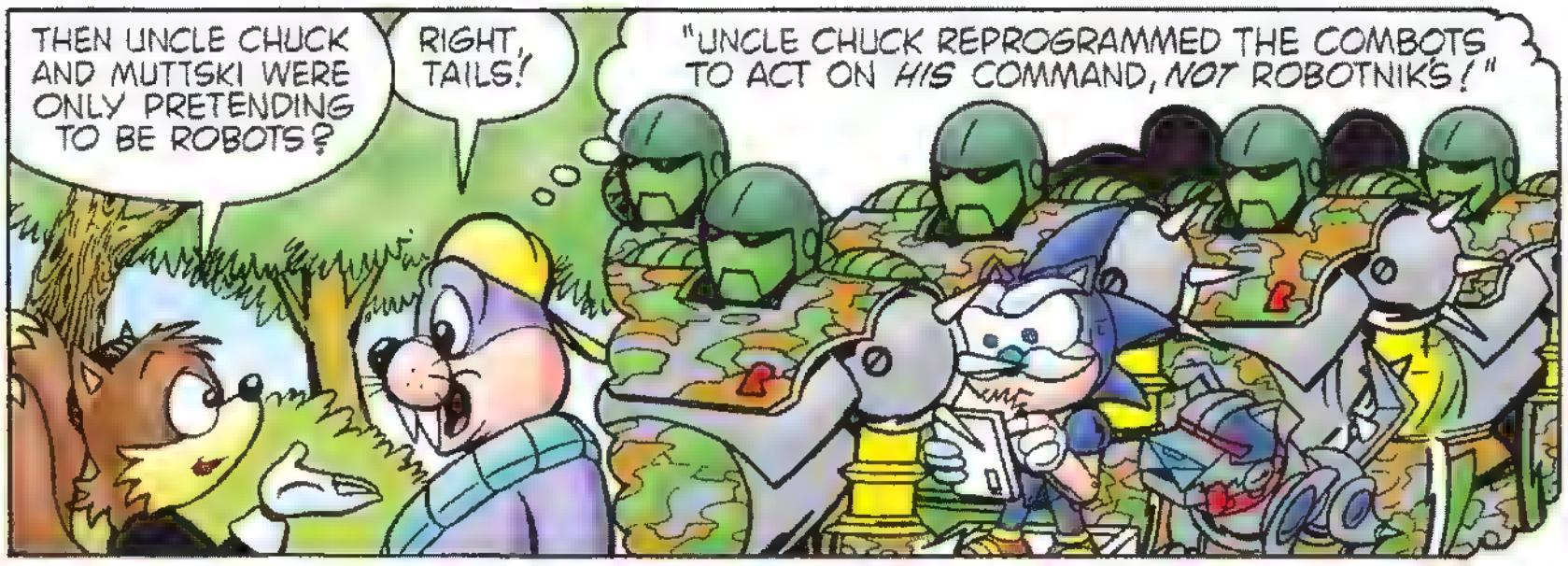
WOOF!

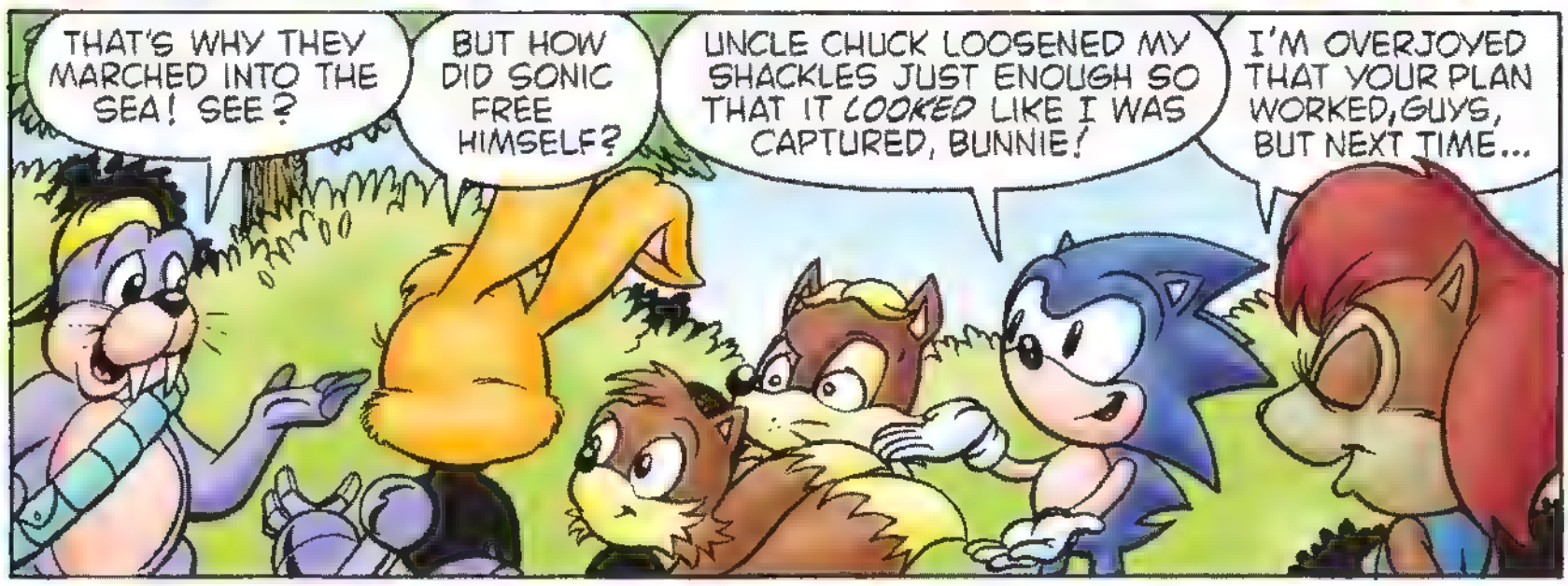
PERHAPS *I* CAN EXPLAIN, ANTOINE!

THE LAST TIME I TESTED UNCLE CHUCK AND MUTTSKI I INSERTED A *NEURO-OVERRIDER** INTO THEIR *NEURAL-NETWORKS*...

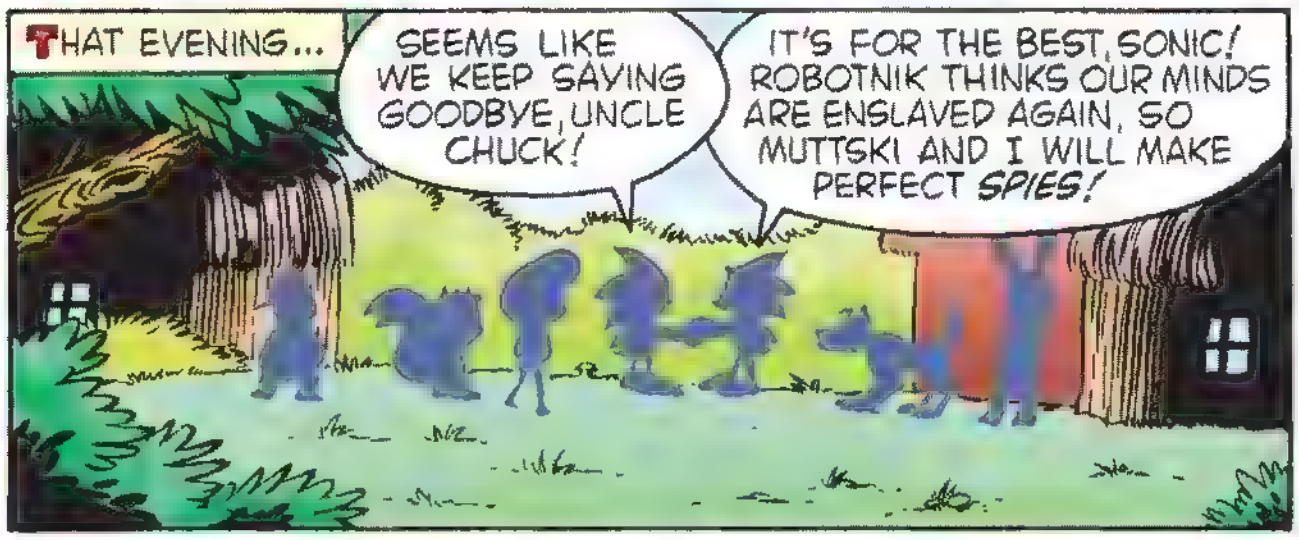
** THE SAME TYPE HE TRIED TO USE ON SALLY IN SONIC #29 - ED*

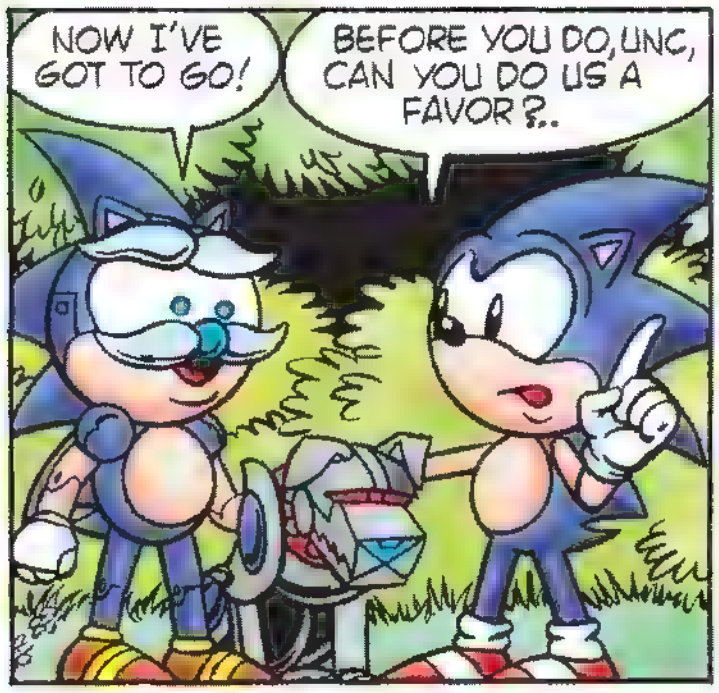
"IT ALLOWED THEM TO KEEP CONTROL OF THEIR MINDS EVEN WHEN ROBOTNIK TRIED TO REALIGN THEM!"

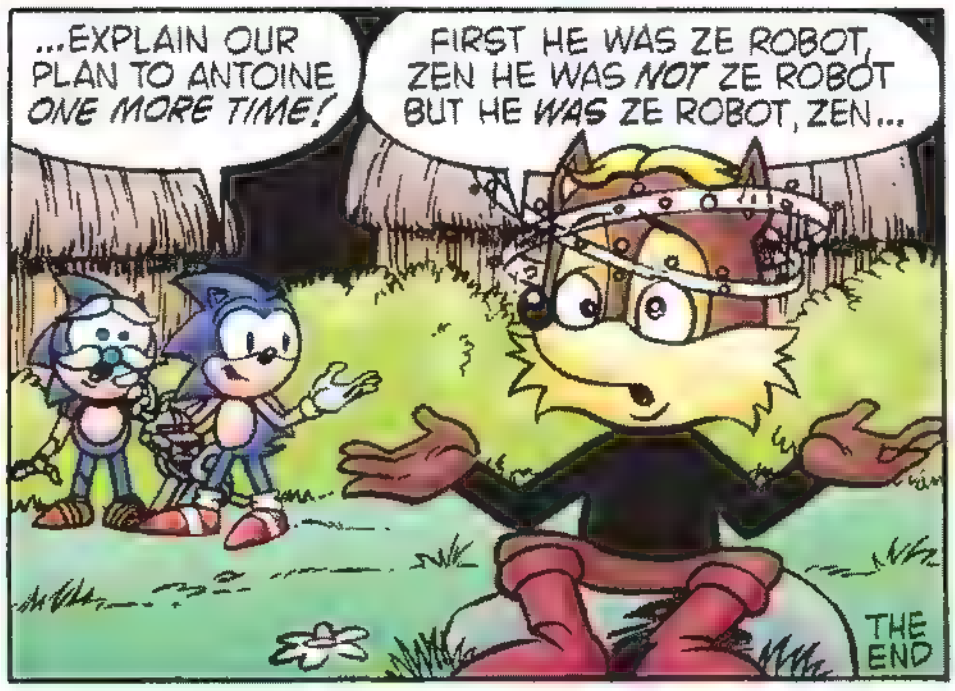

THEN UNCLE CHUCK AND MUTTSKI WERE ONLY PRETENDING TO BE ROBOTS?
RIGHT, TAILS!
"UNCLE CHUCK REPROGRAMMED THE COMBOTS TO ACT ON *HIS* COMMAND, *NOT* ROBOTNIK'S!"


THAT'S WHY THEY MARCHED INTO THE SEA! SEE?
BUT HOW DID SONIC FREE HIMSELF?
UNCLE CHUCK LOOSENED MY SHACKLES JUST ENOUGH SO THAT IT *LOOKED* LIKE I WAS CAPTURED, BUNNIE!
I'M OVERJOYED THAT YOUR PLAN WORKED, GUYS, BUT NEXT TIME...

WOULD YOU MIND TELLING *ME* ABOUT IT?!


THAT EVENING...
SEEMS LIKE WE KEEP SAYING GOODBYE, UNCLE CHUCK!
IT'S FOR THE BEST, SONIC! ROBOTNIK THINKS OUR MINDS ARE ENSLAVED AGAIN, SO MUTTSKI AND I WILL MAKE PERFECT *SPIES!*


NOW I'VE GOT TO GO!
BEFORE YOU DO, UNC, CAN YOU DO US A FAVOR?..


...EXPLAIN OUR PLAN TO ANTOINE *ONE MORE TIME!*
FIRST HE WAS ZE ROBOT, ZEN HE WAS *NOT* ZE ROBOT BUT HE *WAS* ZE ROBOT, ZEN...
THE END

SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS

KNUCKLES™

A SENSE OF HISTORY

PART ONE

TYPICAL.

THAT "ARCHIMEDES" CHARACTER IS PLAYING "HIDE AND SEEK" WITH THE CHAOTIX...

...AND AN EVEN NASTIER SET OF "MIND-GAMES" WITH ME!*

THEY'VE DISAPPEARED...

...AND I'VE NO IDEA WHERE TO FIND THEM!

SCRIPT: MIKE KANTEROVICH & KEN PENDERS
PENCILS: KEN PENDERS
INKS: JON D'AGOSTINO

*SEE "THE HUNT IS ON!" FROM KNUCKLES' CHAOTIX #1 - ED

...ANSWERS?

WHOA!

I'M IN THE *SHADOW* OF *MOUNT FATE!*

DAD TOLD ME THE TALE OF THAT PEAK'S FATEFUL *BIRTHING*...

...AND THE WAY THINGS *USED* TO BE...

...BEFORE THE *GREAT BETRAYAL!*

"HIS STORIES CLAIMED THAT LONG, LONG AGO, *ECHIONA CIVILIZATION* WAS THE MOST *ADVANCED* ON *MOBIUS!*

"OUR CITY'S GLEAMING *SPIRES* ROSE *HIGH* INTO THE *SKY*...

"...THOUGH THE *ISLAND ITSELF* DID NOT!

ECHIONAPOLIS

GREAT RIVER OF MOBIUS

RIVER

"WE WERE *'GROUNDERS'* THEN..."

"...BUT OUR *AMBITIONS* TOUCHED THE *STARS THEMSELVES*...

"THAT'S HOW SOME *DISTANT RELATIVES* OF MINE WERE ALERTED TO THE *DANGER* FROM *ON HIGH!*"

TWO MORE DEGREES, AND WE'LL HAVE CHARTED THE ENTIRE *ALPHA QUADRANT!*

ALL THESE YEARS TO LEARN "*SPACE*" IS A WHOLE LOT OF *NOTHING!*

WISH WE'D DISCOVERED SOMETHING *SPECTACULAR!*

GOINK!

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU *WISH* FOR...

...YOU JUST MIGHT *GET* IT!

OR EVEN *WORSE*...

...*IT* MIGHT GET *US!*

"LATER, IN THE *HALL OF LEARNING*, A DIRE *ANNOUNCEMENT* WAS MADE...

HALL of LEARNING

"...ONE WHICH SHOOK *SOCIETY* TO ITS VERY *CORE!*"

CITIZENS! MEMBERS OF THE *SCIENTIFIC ELITE!*

ACCORDING TO OUR *CALCULATIONS...*

...*ECHIDNAPOLIS* IS *DOOMED!*

WITHIN A MONTH-- POSSIBLY ONLY A *WEEK*--

--THIS GREAT *WHITE COMET* WILL COME CRASHING DOWN UPON US!

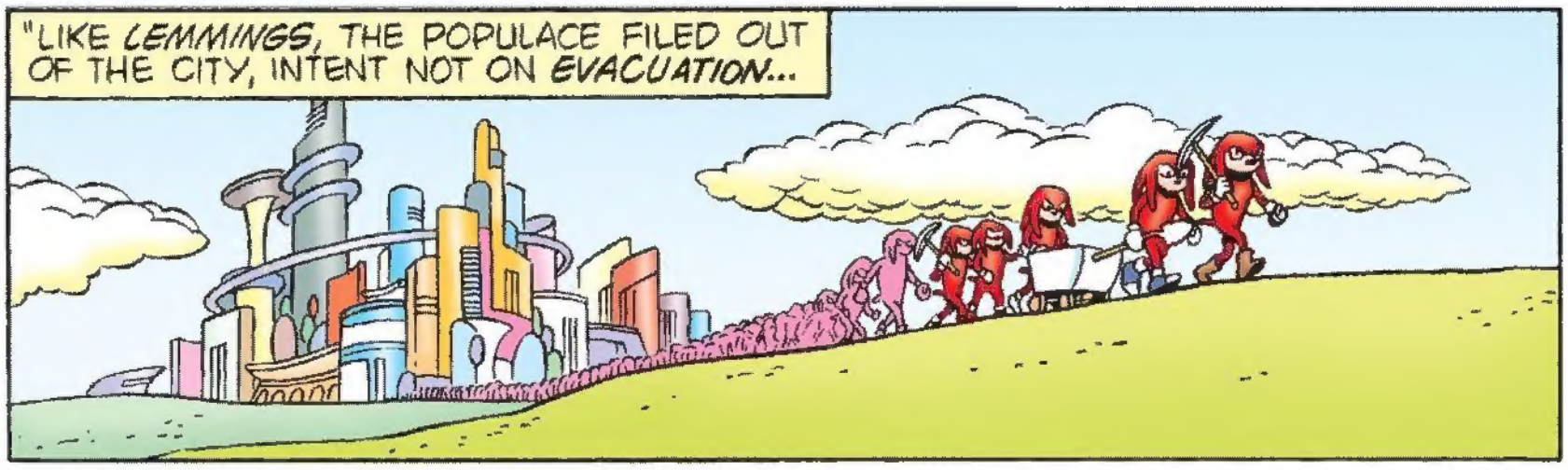
IT'S THE *END* OF THE *WORLD!*

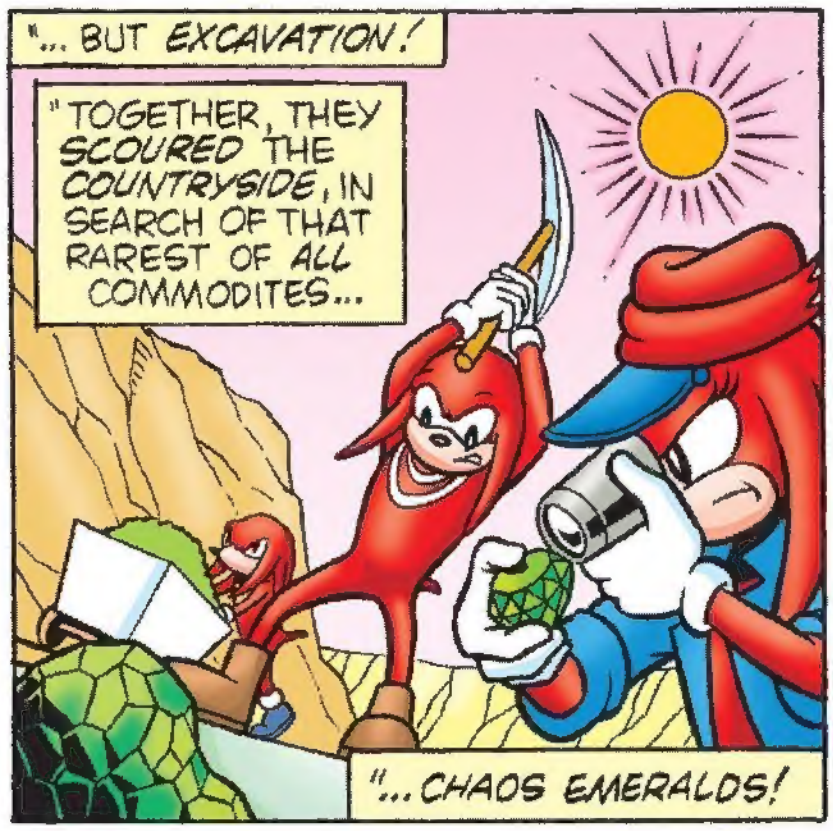
THE *SKY* IS *FALLING!*

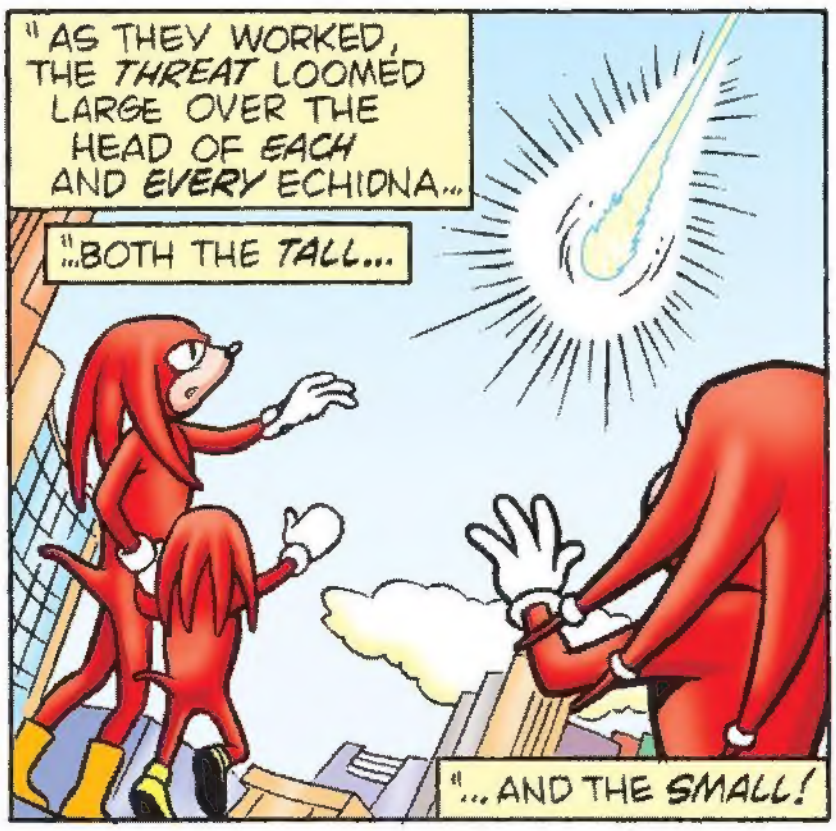
CAN ANYTHING BE *DONE?*

PERHAPS.

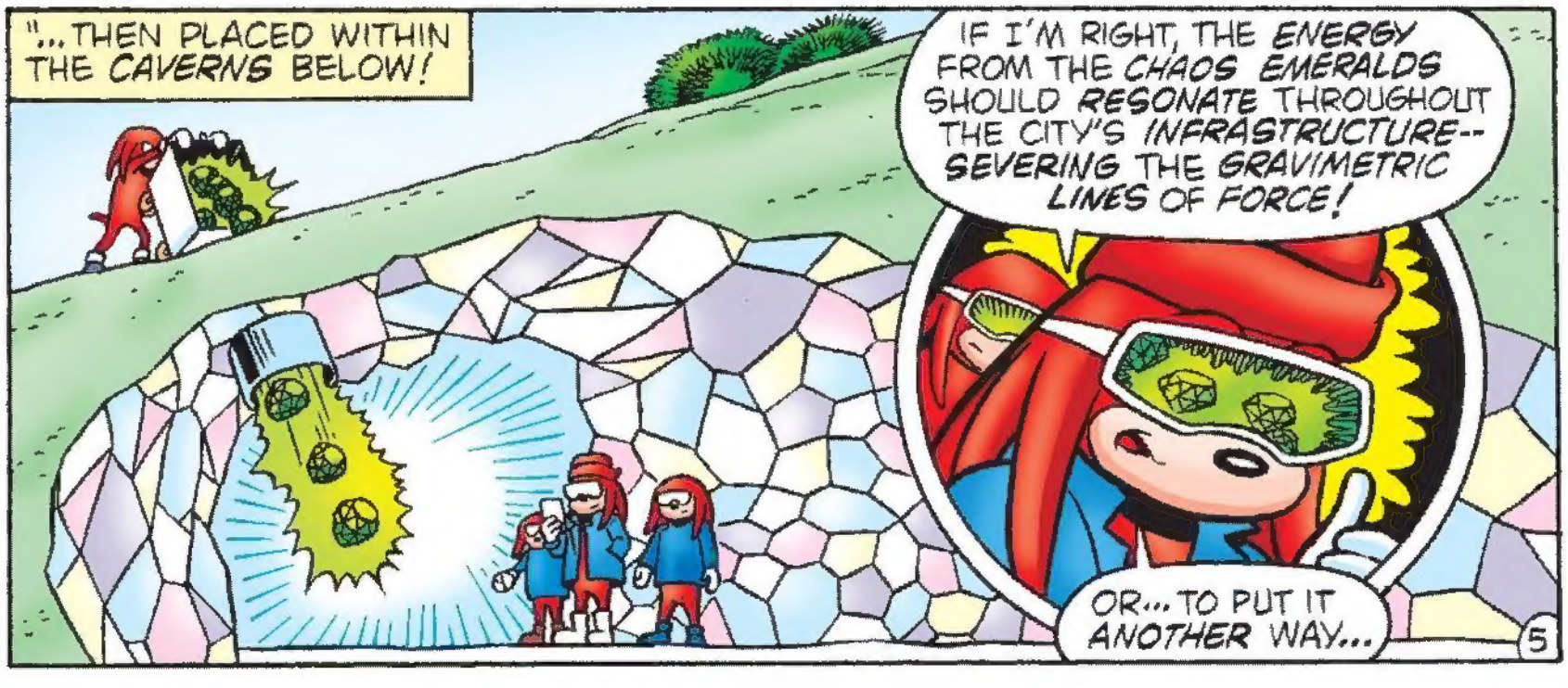
I HAVE A DARING *PLAN...*


"LIKE LEMMINGS, THE POPULACE FILED OUT OF THE CITY, INTENT NOT ON EVACUATION...

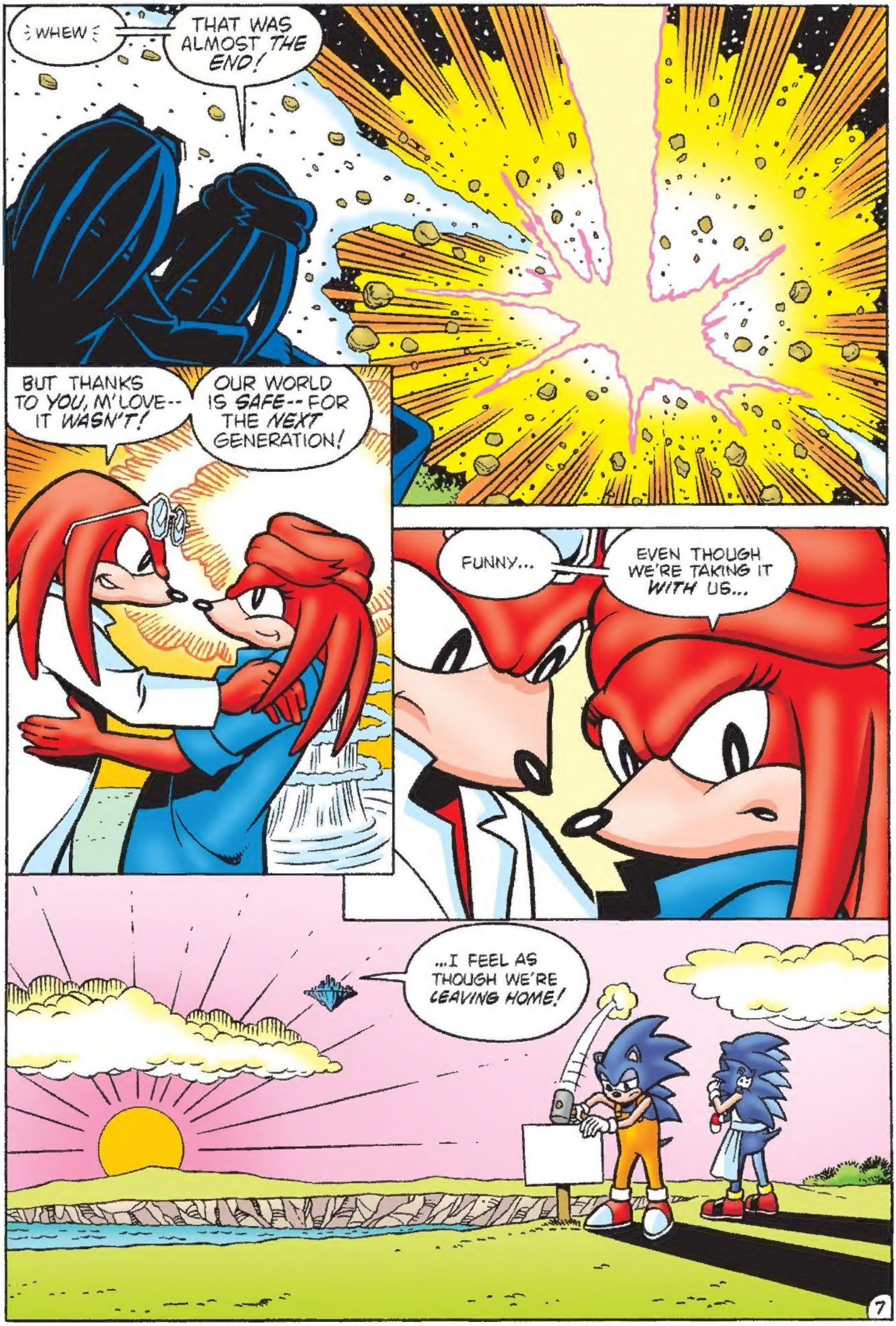

"... BUT EXCAVATION!
"TOGETHER, THEY SCOURED THE COUNTRYSIDE, IN SEARCH OF THAT RAREST OF ALL COMMODITES...
"... CHAOS EMERALDS!


"AS THEY WORKED, THE THREAT LOOMED LARGE OVER THE HEAD OF EACH AND EVERY ECHIDNA...
"...BOTH THE TALL...
"... AND THE SMALL!

"TIME GREW SHORT, AND THE EMERALDS--A DOZEN STRONG-- WERE DELIVERED BY CONVOY...


"...THEN PLACED WITHIN THE CAVERNS BELOW!
IF I'M RIGHT, THE ENERGY FROM THE CHAOS EMERALDS SHOULD RESONATE THROUGHOUT THE CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE-- SEVERING THE GRAVIMETRIC LINES OF FORCE!
OR... TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY...

THROOOOOM!


WHEW
THAT WAS ALMOST THE END!
BUT THANKS TO YOU, M'LOVE-- IT WASN'T!
OUR WORLD IS SAFE-- FOR THE NEXT GENERATION!
FUNNY...
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE TAKING IT WITH US...
...I FEEL AS THOUGH WE'RE LEAVING HOME!

AND THEY WERE.

FOR, HAVING SEVERED ALL TIES TO GRAVITY...

...THE ISLAND WOULD FLOAT, ALONE AND APART...

...FOREVER.

IT WAS A GRAND DAY IN ECHIDNA HISTORY!

LITTLE DID WE DREAM THAT OUR SALVATION...

...WOULD ONE DAY GIVE BIRTH TO MOUNT FATE...

...AND THE GREATEST MENACE OF ALL!